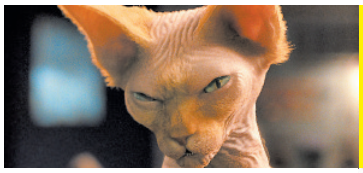

'DIRTY' JERSEY GETS AN IDENTITY
N.Y. 'SUBURB' COMES INTO ITS OWN {page 18}

BETTE MIDLER BECOMES CATTY
ACTRESS SINKS TEETH INTO VILLAIN {page 15}

SCOTT-FREE
CARELL SET TO LEAVE THE OFFICE
SHOW WILL GO ON {page 16}

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Court. Verdict

▶ Carol Berner leaves the provincial courthouse in Surrey yesterday.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Drunk driver guilty in girl's death

A provincial court judge found Carol Berner, of Delta, guilty on four counts yesterday of dangerous and impaired driving in the 2008 death of four-year-old Alexa Middelaer. The toddler was feeding a horse through a fence with her aunt when she was struck and killed. Story, page 5.

Vader's sister defends suspect

Man questioned in couple's disappearance 'sick' {page 11}

Croatian island fascinating gem

Plenty to pack in on sunny isle of Rovinj {page 20}

Early smoking ban looms

- If dry conditions continue, there will be no lighting up of any kind at beaches, parks and trails
- Charcoal barbecues are also off-limits

KRISTEN THOMPSON
@METRONEWS.CA

The pending ban on smoking at Vancouver parks and beaches is expected to kick in early — temporarily — because the long bout of hot weather has turned public spaces tinder dry.

Ian Robertson, a Park Board commissioner, said districts around the Lower Mainland are likely implementing the same smoking bans as of today.

This is the second driest July on record, he said.

"There is the permanent ban starting September, (but) based on the hot dry conditions we expect we're going to move to an extreme fire rating (today)," he said.

"When that happens, a no-smoking ban automatically goes into effect."

"We've done this every year, for all the years we can remember. We get an extreme rating at some point (every) summer."

Blowing smoke

Vancouver residents have passionate opinions about public smoking

- **Michael Robinson, Vancouver:** "I agree (with the ban) because smokers litter and leave their butts everywhere. It is disgusting and a major fire hazard."
- **Linda Lebebe, Vancouver:** "Maybe they should have a confined space for smokers. The sand will put your butt out and what's there to light on fire? You're by the ocean."
- **Dean Martin, Vancouver:** "People are careless. They throw their butts on the ground and will probably cause a fire one day."

The permanent ban starts Sept. 1 after Park Board commissioners voted unanimously in April to start enforcing it.

Fines will start at $250 for first-time offenders and go up to a maximum of $2,000. WITH FILES FROM NATASHA POON

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Fireworks. Journey's beginning

▶ Team Mexico pyrotechnicians set up for tonight's Journey fireworks show.

VANESSA YEE/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Fireworks lovers, get ready for a visual journey

For every minute of this evening's fireworks show, pyrotechnicians will have put in about 40 hours of work, according to Team Mexico's fireworks designer, Jorge Marquez. "We use about 3,000 to 4,000 types of fireworks for one show," he said yesterday. Producer Maude Furtado added that each firework ranges from a few dollars to a few hundred dollars depending on the colour, complexity and whether or not it was a customized module. Each show costs approximately $150,000.

So you think you can play an Afghan villager?

◗ Vancouver-area auditions to be held early next month ◗ Mock Afghan village will be set up in Alberta ◗ Village's purpose is to teach Canadian soldiers how to interact with Afghans

JENNIFER O'CALLAGHAN
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

An open casting call is being held in Burnaby for people to play various roles in a mock Afghan village in Alberta.

It'll be used for cultural sensitivity training for Canadian soldiers and set up by members of the film industry in Wainwright.

Casting director Rhonda Fisekci said she's looking for Afghans, Muslims and amputees aged 18 to 60.

"We need people who speak Farsi or Dari to play interpreters. We also need background people who can fill out the village and make it look like a real town," she said.

"Our goal is to get real Afghans, but we can hire people to dress up like villagers too."

Fisekci added it'll look like a film set without cameras.

"We have special effects on heavy casualty days when people go into battle. There's a lot of blood, guts, and gore."

No weapons or live fire will be used.

Vancouver resident Gen Handley played a reporter in a similar training exercise in Wainwright four years ago. He called the experience "surreal."

"People took their roles seriously. Tempers did rise between the Afghans and soldiers," he said.

"The line between training and reality became blurred at times."

The training sessions will be held between Aug. 21 and Nov. 1.

The casting starts at 2 p.m. on Aug. 4 and 5 at the Holiday Inn in Metrotown, 4405 Central Blvd.

Casting call

- Casting is being done outside of Calgary and Edmonton this year because more than 200 people are needed for key and background villager roles.
- Participants will be paid between $195 and $290 per day.

1 news

News on the move

1. Download the free ScanLife application with your smartphone at 2dscan.com
2. Use the ScanLife application on your smartphone to scan 2D barcodes in Metro
3. The codes will direct your mobile browser to relevant content at **m.metronews.ca**

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SpinDoctor checks in with a theory on why the Tories botched the census issue so badly. More at metronews.ca/blogs

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Lottery website to stay offline pending review

After shutting down its new gambling website because users were able to access others' information and gamble with their money, the B.C. Lottery Corporation said it won't be immediately reactivating PlayNow.com.

The casino and sports betting website was shut down shortly after launching last week.

At first, the BCLC said the site was overwhelmed with new customers, but later announced there had been a privacy breach.

Some gamblers had caught glimpses of users' personal information — including banking information — and a handful were apparently able to gamble with other people's money.

Elizabeth Denham, B.C.'s information and privacy commissioner, launched an investigation into the issue last week.

She said the website won't be re-instated until the province is confident the privacy of online gamblers will be protected.

A public report will be issued when the investigation is done.

B.C. became the first jurisdiction in North America to offer legal, casino-style gaming online when it launched its controversial PlayNow.com site nearly two weeks ago.

KRISTEN THOMPSON

In touch

Gamblers were contacted after the information breach.

134 In all, 134 PlayNow.com gamblers were contacted by the BCLC after having their private information compromised.

▶ Laurel and Michael Middelaer leave provincial court in Surrey yesterday.

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JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Driver guilty in girl's death

- Victim's parents herald DUI decision as 'great day for B.C.'
- Maximum sentence is life in prison

JEFF HODSON
@METRONEWS.CA

A woman has been found guilty of drunk driving in a May 2008 crash that killed four-year-old Alexa Middelaer in Delta.

Carol Berner will be sentenced in early November after a judge yesterday found her responsible for causing death and bodily harm due to dangerous and impaired driving.

"I'm very proud as Alexa's mom that justice was served today," said Laurel Middelaer, outside provincial court in Surrey. "There's no wins here. There's no losses. There's just the revelation that truth was upheld."

"It's a choice. And that choice that Ms. Berner made that day resulted in dire consequences. We lost our beautiful precious daughter."
LAUREL MIDDELAER

Alexa was feeding a horse through a fence along 64th Street in a rural area of Delta when she was struck by Berner's Oldsmobile Intrigue. The four-year-old was killed and her aunt Daphne Johansson was severely injured.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Justice Peder Gulbransen found that Berner was driving upwards of 90 km/h — 80 per cent above the posted limit (50 km/h) — and failed to react properly when her car hit speed bumps: She waited nine seconds and then mistakenly hit the gas, not the brakes.

He concluded that while Berner did not display outward symptoms of intoxication, she was impaired because her blood alcohol was at least 0.06 and her driving was significantly different than it would normally be.

Following the verdict, Berner, dressed in black pants and jacket, left quietly through a side door and got into a waiting SUV. She was holding a number of pamphlets including one entitled Every Day with Jesus.

Her lawyer, David Tarnow, said his client was upset. He felt he had offered a good defence — particularly against the impaired charges.

Homes sought for hoarded kittens

New homes are being sought for 23 kittens rescued by the B.C. SPCA from an animal hoarder in East Vancouver on the weekend. The "animals were living in terrible, filthy conditions," said Ryan Voutilainen, manager of the Vancouver shelter where the cats are being tended to. He added that animal hoarding is sad both for the person "coping with the illness of hoarding" and for the animals involved.

VANESSA YEE

B.C. SPCA

▶ To adopt this cat, visit spca.bc.ca.

News in brief

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VPD

▶ Morris Wilson

Sex offender a risk, say police

HALFWAY HOUSE. A man who was convicted of sexually assaulting boys has moved to a Vancouver halfway house and is considered at risk to re-offend, police say. Morris Gordon Wilson, 56, is not allowed near children or parks.

METRO VANCOUVER

Lawyers' names wrong

CORRECTION. The names of the Crown and defence lawyers were incorrectly reported yesterday. Lacinta Lawton is the Crown lawyer and Joel Whysall the defence attorney. Metro regrets the error.

METRO VANCOUVER

Cop's actions to be probed

INVESTIGATION. The actions of a Vancouver police officer who pushed a woman down on Hastings Street East will be investigated by New Westminster police. The actions of two constables who were accompanying the officer will also be looked at, Vancouver police announced yesterday.

METRO VANCOUVER

Van in top 10 among beach cities: List

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC. Vancouver was ranked 10th in National Geographic's list of the top 10 beach cities in the world, released yesterday.

JENNIFER O'CALLAGHAN

Chinese await spy's apology

POLITICS. Members of Vancouver's Chinese community say they're still waiting for an apology from the head of Canada's spy agency more than a month after Richard Fadden made allegations about foreign influence on politicians.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NDP wants better cancer screening

The NDP is calling for better long-term preventative health-care strategies for colorectal cancer screening in B.C.

Health critic Adrian Dix said yesterday that a provincewide screening program would save lives and money.

Doug Shirlaw, a colorectal cancer survivor, accompanied Dix. "Early screening programs can put a lot more people in our province in the lucky group like myself," he said.

Ruth Tremblay was diagnosed with Stage 3 colorectal cancer in February 2006. "Had they done early testing, they would have locally found the cancer cells and would have been able to remove them before it became Stage 3 cancer," she said.

NATASHA POON

2,800
In 2010, an estimated 2,800 people will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer in B.C.

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Tour. 25 cities

▶Anneliese Evans, 18, left, poses with Olympic snowboarder Maëlle Ricker — and her 2010 Games gold medal — at Georgia and Granville streets yesterday.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Snow queen on hand for Blizzards

Olympian Maëlle Ricker was helping Dairy Queen hand out 5,000 mini Blizzards in celebration of the iconic ice cream treat's 25th birthday. Vancouver was the 23rd stop on a cross-continent, 25-city tour. Proceeds from yesterday's event benefited the B.C. Children's Hospital.

Cries for help misinterpreted as joke: RCMP

◗ International student on life support ◗ Language barrier may have played role in misunderstanding

VANESSA YEE
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

4 There have been four drownings in B.C. over the last couple of weeks.

An exchange student from Korea is on life support after nearly drowning in a lake near Vernon, Mounties said yesterday.

The 23-year-old Okanagan College student and his friends went for a swim on Kalamalka Lake on Friday evening, said RCMP spokesperson Gordon Molendyk.

He said the student started having difficulties shortly after jumping in the water.

"Bystanders didn't recognize he was in trouble right away," Molendyk added.

The man was unconscious when he was pulled from the shallow water. Responding paramedics administered first aid before taking him to a local hospital. On Sunday, he was moved to Vancouver General Hospital.

Molendyk said the young man's parents were on their way to visit him from Korea when RCMP contacted them.

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COURT

Pickton appeal set for ruling

The Supreme Court of Canada will rule Friday on whether or not serial killer Robert Pickton deserves a new trial.

Pickton was convicted in the murders of six women in British Columbia but faces charges in the deaths of 20 others.

He appealed his second-degree murder conviction on the grounds that the judge made a mistake in his instructions to the jury.

The prosecution has said that if Pickton's conviction is upheld, they will not proceed to trial on the remaining charges.

But if it is overturned, they want to retry Pickton for all 26 deaths.

Pickton is serving a life sentence with no possibility of parole for 25 years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reflecting on path to progress for gays in military

Canadian Forces' Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy was abolished in 1992

JON TATTRIE
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

In the past 20 years, the Canadian Forces has gone from being a homophobic organization that actively hounded out gay and lesbian members to one of the world's leading advocates of open integration.

Rana Sioufi, a spokeswoman for the Forces, says after the abolition of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy, the Armed Forces no longer has a specific policy for gay and lesbian members and uniformed personnel regularly march in Pride parades and marry in base chapels.

"Members who are same-sex partners are entitled to the same respect and dignity as heterosexual married couples or common-law partners," Sioufi says.

That's a long way from the treatment Michelle Douglas received in 1989. She complied with the secretive policy by not revealing she was a lesbian, but the Special Investigations Unit kicked in the closet door.

"There was a sense that gays in the military were somehow tantamount to criminals. It was a really sad approach."
MICHELLE DOUGLAS, DISMISSED FROM MILITARY IN 1989

Douglas was interrogated on the suspicion she was gay and ultimately dismissed on the grounds that she was "not advantageously employable due to homosexuality."

"It was a very, very different time," the Toronto woman says.

"There was a sense that gays in the military were somehow tantamount to criminals. It was a really sad approach."

Douglas fought back in court and her action led to the Forces abandoning Don't Ask, Don't Tell in 1992. That paved the way for rapid change.

"It was a very unpleasant experience at the time ... but in the end, Canada did the right thing and I'm very proud of that," she says.

That experience is being studied carefully south of the border, where U.S. President Barack Obama is poised to repeal the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy the American armed forces installed under the Clinton administration in 1993.

Halifax resident Jennifer Paty saw its effects first hand during her sparkling 20-year career in the U.S. navy, which ended in 1994.

The second she was out of the forces, she came out of the closet and has since fought hard against the policy.

"Part of that may have been guilt," she says.

"At a time when our gay soldiers and sailors were needing mentors and I was in a position to be a professional mentor, I couldn't do it.

"It was such a betrayal," she adds of the policy she believes forces people to lie about who they are and who they love. "It was heartbreaking."

Paty, now a minister in the Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church, hopes the U.S. can follow her new home's example.

"I'm hoping we can come even remotely close to what it sounds like was a pretty good transition (in Canada)," she says.

ISTOCK

▶ It has been almost 20 years since the Canadian Forces abolished its Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

Other countries

- **U.S.** President Barack Obama is considering repealing the country's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.
- **Mexico** No restrictions, but discrimination within the ranks does occur.
- **Denmark** There is a law against discrimination based on sexual orientation — including in the Danish military.
- **Russia** Gays have had the right to serve in the army since 2003. Before this time they were not allowed. Homosexuality was considered a mental disorder until 1999.
- **Greece** There are no special rules for gay men and women in the Greek army. However, gay servicemen and women do fear being harassed.
- **Sweden** No-exclusion policy. Discrimination based on sexual orientation is outlawed in Sweden.

METRO WORLD NEWS

OUT IN THE FORCES

A soldier's story

I can't speak for the Canadian Forces as a whole, but my experiences so far of being gay and out in the military have been nothing but positive. In general, people are very supportive.

In my office at work, everybody knows and has met my partner and treats me the same as everybody else. Of course, there are still comments like "that's gay," but the people saying this don't intend any malice and only say it because it's such a common saying and it's hard to break old habits. I find the best way to deal with it is to make a joke about it and say something like, "How do you know?" and it doesn't bother me.

In my experience, being gay in the CF is entirely supported by the chain of command and the organization in general. For example, the CF has a strict no-tolerance policy of harassment of any kind, including of a sexual-orientation nature. As another example, my partner and I are common-law and we are entitled to all of the same benefits within DND that a heterosexual couple is entitled to.

This isn't to say that everybody in the CF accepts gays in the military on a personal level, but as an organization it is fully supported."

AN OPENLY GAY MEMBER OF THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

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ACCUSATIONS MADE

Internal RCMP conflict troubles minister

Canada's public safety minister says he's troubled by reports of turmoil at the RCMP.

Vic Toews said yesterday the Mounties are carrying out a "workplace assessment" to resolve the conflict.

But he wouldn't elaborate, saying the assessment relates to internal management of the force.

CBC News says as many as 10 high-ranking members of the RCMP are accusing Commissioner William Elliott of arrogance and being verbally abusive, close-minded and insulting.

The network says a group of senior managers have made their concerns about Elliott known all the way to Prime Minister Stephen Harper's office.

Toews says the government is committed to helping ensure the RCMP becomes a stronger, more effective organization.

Elliott, the force's first civilian commissioner, was appointed three years ago to overhaul the problem-plagued national institution.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Vic Toews

A MATTER

Semrau decision to take 6 weeks

It's now up to a military judge to decide if Capt. Robert Semrau gets busted down in rank with a hard slap on the wrist, or gets booted from the Canadian Forces and thrown in jail.

Lt.-Col. Jean-Guy Perron will take until Sept. 9 to mull arguments by both the prosecution and defence before sentencing the 36-year-old officer.

Military prosecutors say Semrau should be dismissed in disgrace from the Canadian Forces and spend two years, less a day, in jail for shooting an unarmed enemy fighter as he lay dying on the battlefield.

But Semrau's lawyer says a reduction in rank and a severe reprimand are more fitting punishments.

Semrau was convicted last week of disgraceful conduct in the shooting and a military court yesterday heard final arguments on sentencing.

"Only Capt. Semrau knows what his motivation was. But whatever his motivations, it was a shockingly inappropriate choice."

LT.-COL. MARIO LEVEILLEE

Prosecutor Lt.-Col. Mario Leveillee said Semrau tarnished the Canadian Forces when he fired two rounds into an insurgent who had been strafed by a U.S. gunship helicopter.

Leveillee questioned whether the public would feel differently had Semrau shot a grievously wounded Canadian soldier in an act of mercy.

"Would we say this is an act of chivalry?" he said. "We are not in the Middle Ages." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Biases would be worked into survey because some groups would fill it out in fewer numbers: Ex-StatsCan boss

The country's former chief statistician says he quit his job when it became apparent his agency has suffered a hit to its credibility.

An emotional Munir Sheikh, who resigned his post last week, told a House of Commons committee that he could not stand at the helm of Statistics Canada once it was reported his agency had recommended scrapping the mandatory long-form census.

His voice broke as he quoted an article the former clerk of the privy council, Alex Himelfarb, has written in support of him. He went on to outline exactly what spurred his departure.

"The issue for us is the quality of that data, and we acknowledge, as the minister did, that (the politicians) are the ones who make decisions not the public servants," Sheikh said.

"This reasoned and responsible approach is about finding a better balance between collecting the necessary data and protecting the privacy of Canadians."

INDUSTRY MINISTER TONY CLEMENT

"The reason I stepped aside was because of some media stories that Statistics Canada was not just implementing the decision, but recommending it."

Those media stories arose from statements Industry Minister Tony Clement made in interviews, saying that he had gone with a recommendation of StatsCan to replace the long-form census with a voluntary survey.

Clement has since clarified his comments, and repeated at the committee that the decision to scrap the census was made by the federal cabinet alone.

"It was our government that took the decision to put an end to the concept of Canadians being fined or facing jail time," said Clement, adding that Statistics Canada would have preferred the status quo.

Clement also said the government would go to great lengths to ensure the voluntary survey would be a suitable replacement for the long census.

But Sheikh emphasized that the data would be of a lesser quality with a voluntary system.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Munir Sheikh, former chief of Statis looking into changes to the long-form

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ A group of children get to hold an Olympic torch during a parade of Canadian Olympic athletes April 23 in Montreal. Montrealers can smile knowing their city is considered one of the world's top 10 happiest places by the popular travel guide, Lonely Planet.

Montreal among 10 happiest places

Canada has an entry on the list of the 10 happiest places on the planet — no small feat considering the rundown included Happy, Texas, the self-proclaimed "town without a frown."

The popular Lonely Planet travel guide picked Montreal for its list of cheerful locales, noting that Canada's second-largest city hosts one of the world's biggest comedy events every July.

Lonely Planet's U.S. travel editor, Robert Reid, says the list was drawn by surveying a panel of the guide's editors and authors.

"Happy is a relative term and the truth is you can find happiness anywhere you go," he said in a phone interview from New York. "You have to pick some places that have certain things about it that kind of pop out."

Happy, Texas, for instance, made the cut because its name is "irresistible," he said with a laugh.

"What works for a place like Montreal is that a lot of travellers, they go there and it feels like a city that loves itself in all the right ways. Food is fantastic, it parties like crazy. I live in New York City and, believe me, this part of the (U.S.) knows where to party: You go north of the border to Montreal."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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OF CREDIBILITY

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

tics Canada, prepares to take his seat, as Industry Minister Tony Clement appears before the House of Commons industry committee
census on Parliament Hill in Ottawa yesterday.

Support for Tories down, survey finds

A new poll suggests opposition parties are gaining on the Conservatives across almost the entire country.

The Canadian Press Harris Decima survey suggests the Tories' national lead over the Liberals slipped to five percentage points from eight.

The Conservatives stand at 31 per cent, the Liberals 26 per cent, the NDP 18 per cent, the Greens 12 per cent and the Bloc Québécois 10 per cent.

The biggest drop for the Tories was in the vote-rich province of Ontario, where they're tied with the Liberals.

But both parties have lost ground to the NDP in British Columbia, while all three are far behind the Bloc Québécois in Quebec.

The pollsters surveyed 2,030 people between July 15 and 25, as criticism over the Conservatives' move on the census hit its zenith with the resignation of Canada's top statistician.

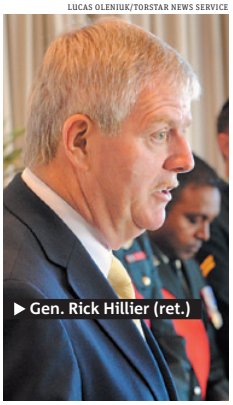
But pollster Allan Gregg says it's hard to attribute the drop to the census because the issue is not engaging most Canadians.

The decline in B.C. and Quebec suggests that any talk of a fall election is moot.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wikileaks report on deaths an error: Hillier

LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



▶ Gen. Rick Hillier (ret.)

Canada's former chief of defence staff says human error is likely to blame for a leaked U.S. document that suggests four Canadian soldiers who died in Afghanistan in 2006 were killed by friendly fire.

The documents are part of a massive stack of U.S. military reports released Monday that document six years of NATO's combat mission in Afghanistan.

Sgt. Shane Stachnik, Warrant Officer Frank Robert Mellish, Pte. William Cushley and Warrant Officer Richard Francis Nolan were killed Sept. 3, 2006, in a well-documented and bloody battle with a fierce Taliban force.

Retired general Rick Hillier says there were more than 1,000 Canadian soldiers involved in Operation Medusa, and hundreds of witnesses who saw precisely what happened, and the American account is simply incorrect.

He says it's a cardinal rule among soldiers in the field to take every piece of information with a grain of salt, because it's only in the fullness of time that the true picture emerges.

A source in Washington says the report could be confusing their deaths with a genuine friendly fire death the following day: Pte. Mark Graham died when Canadian troops in the area were strafed by NATO planes.

"Somebody wrote a document, obviously, and was wrong in what they wrote," said Hillier.

"We always tried to take with a grain of salt everything we heard, because nothing was ever as good or as bad as you would first hear. We never trusted those first reports, and don't trust them now."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man allegedly punched over sandwich

Police in Chatham, Ont., have charged a woman with assault after her boyfriend was punched in the face in an alleged dispute over a sandwich.

Investigators say a man made his girlfriend a sandwich Monday evening and when she only ate half, she said he could have the other half.

A short time later, police say the woman became infuriated that the sandwich was missing and punched her boyfriend in the face.

Police say later in the night the two became involved in an unrelated argument and she punched him in the chest.

A 27-year-old Chatham woman has been charged with two counts of assault.

She has been held in custody pending a bail hearing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Facebook helps snag multiple murder suspect

Pawned items stolen in robberies Preyed on retired expats in Philippine city of Angeles

Philippine police tracked down a suspect in a series of grisly robberies and murders with the help of his Facebook account, officials said yesterday.

Mark Dizon, a 28-year-old computer technician, did not resist when arrested yesterday while talking with his father in a public square in northern San Fernando city, police Senior Superintendent Danilo Bautista said.

Dizon is accused of killing nine people — six Filipinos, an American, a Canadian and a Briton — in three different robberies at hotels and homes this month in Angeles city. The area, near the former U.S.-run Clark Air Force Base some 80 kilometres northwest of Manila, is home to many retired expatriates.

Dizon, who is from a well-off family and according to police had a fascination with guns, was Facebook friends with the daughter of one of the victims. A friend of her family showed his photo on the popular social networking site to witnesses to help identify him, police said.

"He was fond of computers and this gave him away," Bautista told The Associated Press.

Dizon denied involvement in the killings, Bautista said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Foul play

The deadly robbery and murder spree started with a Canadian.

- **First kill** The string of deadly robberies started July 12, when Canadian Geoffrey Alan Bennun, 60, and his Filipino girlfriend were shot to death after a robber broke into their hotel room.
- **Another killing** Four days later, Briton James Bolton Porter, 51, and his girlfriend were killed by a gunman in their house in Angeles's Malabanas village, according to police reports.

Law. Anchors away

▶ Laura Dekker poses for the media yesterday on her boat Guppy in Den Osse, Netherlands.

EVERT-JAN DANIELS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Court clears teen to sail

A Dutch court cleared the way for 14-year-old Laura Dekker to embark on a risky attempt to become the youngest person to sail solo around the world.

MAC apologizes over name choice

The New York-based MAC cosmetics company and its design firm apologized yesterday for any offence caused by a joint collection inspired by U.S. and Mexican border towns that features some pallid, ghostly hues.

MAC said it will donate $100,000 to help the women of Ciudad Juarez, a Mexican border city plagued by violence and murders of women.

The collection of lipstick, blushes and other cosmetics raised hackles on Mexican social networking sites because it used names like "Juarez," and "Bordertown." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghan army concerned about taking over

Maj. Abdul Samad, an Afghan army officer respected among his troops and Canadian mentors alike, is worried about day when Afghan security forces will have to stand on their own.

Samad is the acting commander of Kandak 2, 1st Brigade of 205th Corps., stationed at a Canadian forward operating base in north Panjwaii.

He's in charge of the Afghan National Army in the volatile district, and has been praised by the Canadians as an excellent officer.

"Let's talk actually ... really," he said in an interview with The Canadian Press. "We don't have a good economy. We cannot feed our army. Right now, we have the help of ISAF beside us. If this help won't be beside of us, maybe we cannot ... feed the ANA soldiers," he said.

With the latest goal of transferring security to the Afghan government in its 34 provinces by 2014, the clock is ticking on getting the Afghan security forces ready.

Even basic requirements like food and water, fuel and pay present a growing problem as the army gets bigger. The goal is for the army to have 134,000 troops in place by this October, and 171,000 by October 2011.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vader was 'tired and sick,' sister says

Claims brother is innocent in Mcann disappearance case Vader wanted on over a dozen warrants

The sister of a man RCMP have questioned about the disappearance of an Alberta couple says he showed up at her Edmonton home "tired and sick" the day after Lyle and Marie McCann vanished.

Bobbi-Jo Vader, who came to court yesterday to see her brother face three charges unrelated to the disappearance, said the family had fallen out of touch with Travis Vader.

But on July 4, she said, he drove up to the home she shares with her foster mother, Esther Rose McKay-Crosswell, looking for sanctuary.

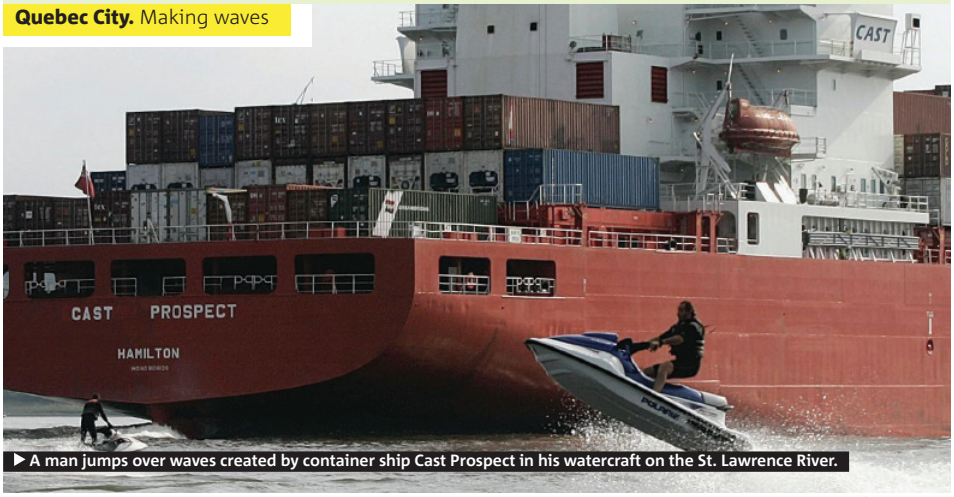
"He was tired and he was sick and he needed to rest," the sister said. "Travis has been running from the police for a while."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Missing couple

- The McCanns, both in their 70s, were towing a Hyundai Tucson SUV behind their motor home when they disappeared.
- They were last seen July 3 when they gassed up their RV in their hometown of St. Albert, just north of Edmonton, before heading toward British Columbia for a family camping trip.
- The motor home was found two days later, burning in dense bush near Edson, 200 kilometres west of Edmonton — minus the SUV.
- On July 16, RCMP announced they were looking for Travis Vader as a "person of interest" in the couple's disappearance.

Quebec City. Making waves



A man jumps over waves created by container ship Cast Prospect in his watercraft on the St. Lawrence River.

JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

St. Lawrence to be used as a power source?

The mighty St. Lawrence River will soon be home to an underwater power-generating project that could one day churn in rivers across Canada. In the coming days, a pair of 3.2-metre-high river turbines — which resemble giant jet engines — will be plunked into the waves near Montreal as part of a pilot project. The operation will start off small, producing a total of 500 kilowatts of energy, enough to power up to 750 homes, says the company that builds the units.

Be extra sure to check your cheques

Think of it as one more reason not to write cheques.

Hackers believed to be operating out of Russia have figured out a high-tech way to carry out the decidedly low-tech crime of cheque fraud, a computer security company says — writing at least $9 million US in fakes against more than 1,200 legitimate accounts.

But these hackers got the account information in an unusual way: They broke into three websites that specialize in a little-known type of business — archiving cheque images

Cheque counterfeiting is a crime that savvy Internet criminals usually pass up. After all, it's far easier for them to make money by stealing credit cards and online banking passwords.

The scam was discovered by SecureWorks Inc., an Atlanta computer security company. The organization says it is working with the FBI and says the hackers have not been caught.

SecureWorks notified three affected sites and said they have closed their security holes, but warned that the scam is ongoing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The scam

- Retailers and other businesses use the sites to store records of all the cheques they write.
- Cheque-cashing operations use them to sock away images of cheques they receive.
- Some banks pay them to store images of customers' cheques, so the customers can see them when they do online banking.
- The criminals downloaded all the images they could, grabbing bank routing numbers, names and addresses and signatures of legitimate account holders.
- They used the information to create their own cheques using easy-to-acquire software and printers.

News in brief

One bad kitty

AUSTRIA. This little kitty went home — but only after Vienna police and firefighters partially dismantled a police car to find it.

It took them half an hour to extract the feline from inside a small space in the vehicle's floor panel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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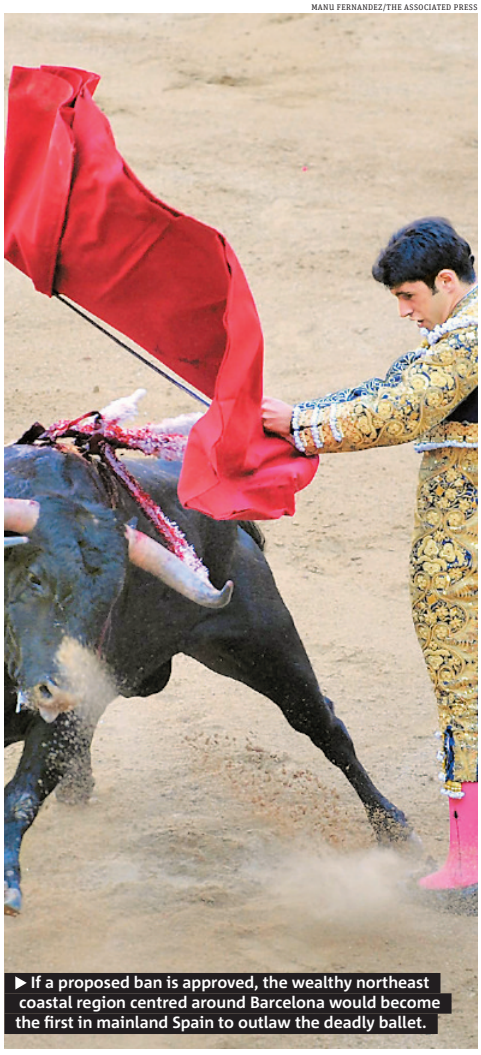
Defiant Spanish region eyes ban on bullfighting

Socialists were to vote against proposal Ideology changed after self-rule charter trimmed, newspaper says

MANU FERNANDEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ If a proposed ban is approved, the wealthy northeast coastal region centred around Barcelona would become the first in mainland Spain to outlaw the deadly ballet.

Lawmakers in Catalonia might ban bullfighting in a razor-close vote this week, rejecting a pillar of traditional Spain in a region with its own language and culture and an acute sense of being a country within a country.

Along with the Basque region, Catalonia has the most self-rule among Spain's semiautonomous regions, running their own police force and having a say over a wide range of other issues. But many Catalans are angry because Spain's highest court recently trimmed the region's self-rule charter.

The practical effect of such a move would be limited: Catalonia has only one functioning bullring, in Barcelona — another one is being turned into a mall — and it stages 15 fights a year out of a nationwide total of roughly 1,000 bouts per season.

The final result will depend on the region's two dominant parties — a centre-right Catalan nationalist coalition called Convergence and Union, and the local branch of Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero's Socialists.

The hospitality industry has pressured lawmakers to reject the ban.

"In this debate, I think the economic factor will prevail."
JOSEFINA ELIAS, PRESIDENT OF INSTITUTO OPINA

WILD ANIMAL

Black bear kills family pet

A startled black bear turned on a dog in southeastern B.C., killing the family pet.

Police in the Kootenay city of Nelson say the bear wandered into the backyard of a home where the golden retriever was tied up.

When it began barking the bear attacked.

A member of a Bear Aware group in Nelson says such incidents are rare.

But Joanne Siderius says the number of bears around the city has jumped this year, possibly because they smell improperly stored garbage.

She advises area residents to keep trash in bear-proof bins, pick up fallen fruit from backyard trees and always keep a close eye on pets.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Loose tiger in South Africa

Police are warning residents of a South African neighbourhood against approaching a Bengal tiger that escaped from its owners. Police say the tiger named Panjo broke open the canopy of a truck carrying it and jumped free early yesterday in the Delmas district, 70 kilometres southeast of Johannesburg. Tigers are not native to South Africa.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vatican backtracks on 'new' Caravaggio work

PIER PAOLO CITO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Art officials unveiled the painting at the centre of the latest Caravaggio mystery yesterday.

After the Vatican newspaper first suggested and then denied that a canvas was the work of the Italian master Caravaggio, art officials and scholars agreed the painting did not look like a Caravaggio — but rather like the work of one or more of his followers at the unveiling yesterday.

The Martyrdom of St. Lawrence will now be subjected to X-rays and other analyses to ascertain its attribution.

"It's a very interesting painting but I believe we can rule out — at least for now — that it's a Caravaggio," said art superintendent Rossella Vodret. "The quality of the painting doesn't hold up."

Vodret opened the curtain on the painting in a Jesuit church in Rome, revealing a canvas dominated by the figure of the St. Lawrence being grilled to death, his three executioners in the backdrop.

The 183-by-130.5 centimetre painting was recently cleaned up and features the dramatic chiaroscuro typical of Caravaggio and his school. The painting will not be on public display.

The painting belongs to the Jesuit order and had been kept for years in Rome. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

The Vatican's gaffe

1. The Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, set the art world aflutter last week with a front-page article headlined: "A New Caravaggio."
2. The article made clear that no certain attribution had been made and that further tests were required. But the definitive-sounding headline and the fact that the claim was made on the day marking the 400th anniversary of the master's death had raised expectations. The Vatican has in the past announced such art-world news in L'Osservatore, sometimes coinciding with an anniversary.
3. But on Monday, the newspaper reversed itself and published an article by the Vatican's top art historian shooting down the claim. The front-page headline was: A New Caravaggio? Not really.

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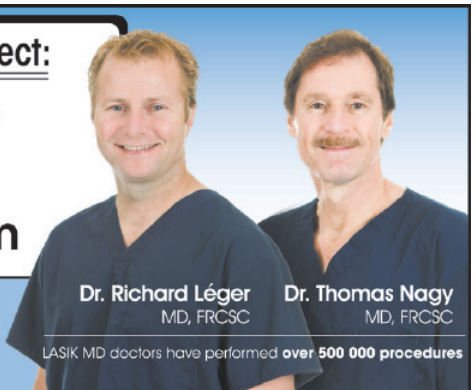
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Consumer faith in economy fading

Numbers show Canada more confident than U.S. Job listings still growing in Canada European situation remains a concern

Fears of an economic slowdown or worse are draining consumer confidence in both Canada and the United States, increasing the changes of a double-dip, two new surveys suggest.

Stock markets retreated in New York and Toronto after the release of the two reports, from Conference Boards in both countries, underlying the importance of consumers to the recovery.

Consumers represent two-thirds of the American economy and as the Bank of Canada has noted, consumers were the linchpin in Canada's relatively strong performance both during the global recession and current recovery.

The concern, said economist Pedro Antunes of the Canadian think-tank, is that growing skittishness among consumers will cause them to delay or cancel purchases, further depressing economic activity and production.

In Canada, consumer confidence fell for the second straight month in July to 80. Prior to the recession, the index hovered around 100.

The U.S. also saw a second straight pull-back, bringing the index to 50.4, the lowest since February.

"(Confidence) is that intangible that we know has an impact on consumer behaviour."
PEDRO ANTUNES, ECONOMIST

Antunes said the two indices are comparable in their methodology, meaning that Canadians remain far more upbeat than their American counterparts, even if that confidence is wavering.

Analysts said the major difference between the readings is the disparate employment situations in the two countries. In recent months, Canadian job growth has been far greater than expected - including a 93,000 pick-up in June — while the U.S. has seen its job growth stall and even fall back with a 125,000 loss during the same month.

A more telling indicator is the gap between the countries' employment ratio. In Canada, 62.1 per cent of working age individuals were working in June, compared to only 58.5 per cent in the U.S., despite less stringent criteria. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NYSE. Opening bell

▶ The second season of Jersey Shore premiers Thursday.

RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jersey comes to Manhattan

Cast members of MTV's Jersey Shore reality series pose for photos yesterday after ringing the opening bell of the New York Stock Exchange. From left, Vinny Guadagnino, Jenni Farley, Nicole Polizzi, Michael Sorrentino, Ronnie Ortiz and Angelina Pivarnick.

OIL SPILL FALLOUT

BP's new CEO preps for role

Bob Dudley's sudden rise to the top at BP PLC shows how the Gulf oil spill has dramatically changed the fortunes of people from local fishermen to corporate executives.

Seen as an unlikely candidate just a few months ago, Dudley is set to become the first American to lead the oil giant in its century long history.

Dudley will become CEO on Oct. 1 and try to salvage the company's reputation and investments in the United States.

Dudley's standing within BP and along the Gulf Coast has risen since he took over BP's response to the oil spill in June from current CEO Tony Hayward, who will remain on BP's board until Nov. 30.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chinese firm looking at B.C.

A Chinese state-owned company is investing $18 million in Canada Zinc Metals Corp., which will use proceeds from the sale of common shares and warrants to advance its Akie zinc-lead property in northeastern British Columbia.

Tongling Nonferrous Metals Group Holdings Co. Ltd. will buy about 31.4 million equity units from Canada Zinc for 57.35 cents each. Each unit will consist of one common share and half of a purchase warrant.

36 The Chinese company will own about 36 per cent of the Vancouver company's equity if the transaction is approved.

Based in Tongling, Anhui, Tongling Nonferrous is a state-owned holding company that mines and processes copper, lead, zinc, gold, silver and other nonferrous and rare metals. It is one of China's largest copper smelting companies.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rogers has faith in new plan

As Canada's biggest wireless player, Rogers has lost new cellphone customers due to increased competition but expects to retain its lead with the help of its new unlimited talk and text brand, Chatr.

CEO Nadir Mohamed said the cellphone market is competitive but that Chatr will tap into a consumer need. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Apple has faith in new iMacs

Apple Inc. unveiled the latest update to its line of desktop computers yesterday, promising faster speeds and offering the option of multi-touch controls similar to those used on the iPhone.

Apple said its new line of iMac desktops, with new Intel processors, are the company's fastest ever.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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UNPLUG ... UNWIND ... AND DROP OUT

Just sayin'

PAUL SULLIVAN

I'm about to go on vacation.

You know, "vacation?" When you trade the office, the desk, the phone and high-speed Internet for the hotel room with the desk, the phone and high-speed Internet.

Vacations are quality time spent with "families" when you only check your messages 35 times a day instead of the regular 70. It's that time when you can get out on the beach or the golf course and listen to all the tweets.

There are even some birds left, too.

Wait a minute! Stop the insanity! It's time to draw a line in the sand. What better time and place than on vacation, where sand is often available.

On this vacation, I pledge to unplug and rediscover my surroundings, in this case the coast of Oregon, which has some of the most awe-inspiring sand on the planet.

It won't be easy, because wherever I go I can get to five bars and do business, 24/7. Somewhere on Earth there's a client who needs me, a deadline to be met, an email to answer, a friend request, a follower to add. The plan is to set up the Mother of All Firewalls, let nothing through and just sit there, contemplating the sand between my toes.

"Somewhere on Earth there's a client who needs me, a deadline to be met, an email to answer, a friend request, a follower to add. The plan is to set up the Mother of All Firewalls ..."

I'm a little concerned since there's another person coming — my wife — and she will probably expect me to interact with her in real time, face-to-face, and we're not talking Facebook. Relationships these days consist of two people sitting in deck chairs with devices talking to everyone they know except each other. What do we say to each other? Like OMG, who RU?

I'm hardly the only one who feels this way. Out there, on the road, at the breakfast buffet, the beach, the patio, I'm likely to encounter other fidgeting workaholics sneaking desperate furtive glances at their BlackBerrys while pretending to be interested in this seashell or that sunset. To you I say:

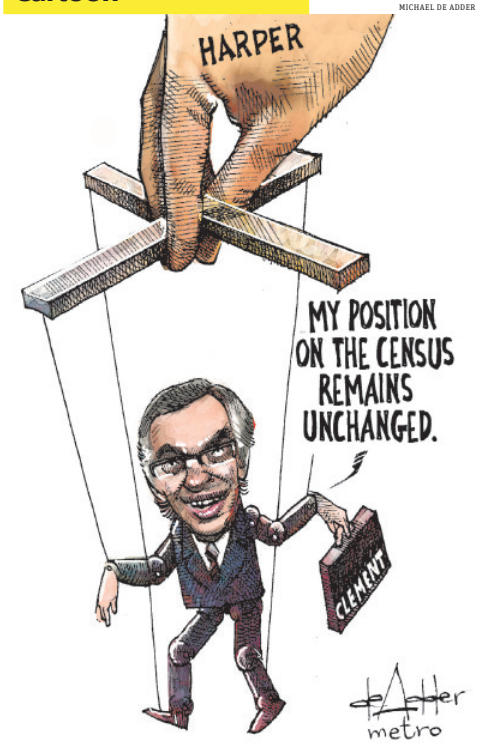
We're pathetic. A couple weeks a year — at least — it's a good idea to stop being important multi-tasking members of the hive and just Be. Be a husband, a dad, a wife, a daughter, a son, a (real) friend. Caution, this requires something called an attention span, with which you may not be familiar.

Cold turkey, that's my only hope. Leave the smart devices at home and take only the stupid ones, like a flip phone with a My Sharona ring tone for ordering pizza in Cannon Beach.

Now, how do you set up those "I'm away until Aug. 16" messages on email ...

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER



Time & money continuum

Letters & Tweets

We asked: What would you rather have more of, time or money?

TORONTO. Why choose one when you can have both.

Build a "residual" income business ... within two to five years anyone can be financially free. I'm building my business so I don't need to trade my time for money until I'm 65 and have no pension when I get there. That's another 27 years of work for me.

This is going to let me enjoy time with my family and do the things we want, when we want. So there is no need to choose one when you can do some work for the next few years and build something that will pay you forever. You deserve it don't you?

RICK MORRA

HALIFAX. @newlab_tunes: I would rather have more money. I would kick-start my website, pay my parents back and live more comfortably, & donate to IWK.

TORONTO. I would like to have a little of both. I work in an office (IT) and I find I don't nearly have enough time to do my work. You can never have too much money in today's world with HST, eco fees, transit passes, bailouts, interest rates, mortgage payments — the list goes on and on.

JASON DUSTER

What celebrity are you sick of hearing about?

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Metro Minute with Big Bang fireworks

Can't get enough of the fireworks? Come down to the Museum of Vancouver in Vanier Park to enjoy the Big Bang fundraising event hosted by Andy Yan of Bing Thom Architects.

Proceeds go toward supporting youth and family programs at the museum. Doors open at 8 p.m. and the fireworks show starts at 10 p.m.

There will be a cash bar so spectators can grab a drink while they enjoy the lights.

Tickets are $10 in advance and $15 at the door. If you plan on driving down, email shattingh @museumofvancouver.ca to request an access pass. For more information, call 604-736-4431.

VANESSA YEE

JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

▶ Fireworks light up English Bay last week.

Actress voices hairless feline determined to destroy the world in Cats and Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore ◐ Supports green projects when not in the studio

▶ A scene from Cats and Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore, which includes voice work from Bette Midler.

Bette Midler sinks her teeth into villain

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

In Cats and Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore, singer, actress and all-around entertainer Bette Midler got to sink her teeth into the titular villain, a hairless cat hell-bent on world domination. And Midler admits the desire to take over the world was pretty easy to relate to.

"I think a lot of female entertainers think about that when they start out," she says. "I did."

But as for her character turning evil after an on-the-job accident causes her fur to fall out, Midler insists that's where they differ. "Something happens to my hair in real life every day and I don't," she says with a laugh.

Dealing with hair issues is something she says she learned about early on in her career. "A long time ago when I first started in the theatre, I was in Fiddler on the Roof, and one of the girls in Fiddler was a Puerto Rican girl," Midler remembers. "The opening night, she had done something to her hair, she had tried to straighten her hair or something, and her hair fell out. Literally. And she didn't even blink. She went out, she got a piece, she slapped it on, she went out, she gave the performance of her life. And I never forgot that. From that time on, I never thought twice. I just look around, grab a piece, put it on and go."

"It's our 15th anniversary this year, and it's been fantastic. (New York Restoration Project) has been one of the great projects of my life." BETTE MIDLER

Of course, doing voice work for her latest film didn't require much concern about her hair. "It's not just isolating, it's lonely," she says of the recording sessions. "Because it's just you in a dark room with a sketch of a character or sometimes a filled-in scene, but you don't work with the other actors. It's like one long looping session, I said. It's like, 'Oh my God, ADR for days.'"

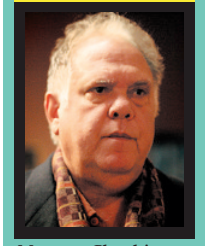
As much as her feline counterpart is determined to destroy the world, Midler has been working for more than a decade on saving it — or at least her home city.

"A couple of years ago, I teamed up with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to plant a million trees in New York City, and we've planted about 375,000 so far in the last two years," she says.

"I also am the founder and chairman of an organization called New York Restoration Project. We clean abandoned parks and public places, and we also own 55 community gardens where people in the community grow their own food."

2 scene

News in brief



Maury Chaykin, a mainstay of Canadian film and television who established himself through such iconic roles as a faded rock star in Whale Music, has died at age 61.

The Gemini and Genie Award-winning actor died Tuesday morning after battling kidney problems, said Mark McKinney, who produced Chaykin's most recent series, the HBO Canada sitcom Less Than Kind. "He was one of our greatest actors," said McKinney, adding that the cast was devastated.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paul McCartney reflects on performing for Obama

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NBC confirms The Office star's imminent departure

Comedy sitcom will remain in its current time slot, say execs. Steve Carell says his decision to leave next year was based on creating a better work and family life balance.

NBC may wish Steve Carell was just joking, but a network executive said The Office star has consistently told NBC he's leaving after this coming season.

In the network's first acknowledgment of Carell's plans, NBC Primetime Entertainment President Angela Bromstad said Monday the actor's seven-year run as erratic Dunder Mifflin boss Michael Scott will end when his contract expires in 2011. But Bromstad said the show will go on.

"We've been lucky to have had him as long as we've had. These things happen when you have such a major movie star in a show," she said.

In an affirmation of NBC's faith in a post-Carell The Office, Bromstad said the sitcom will remain in its 9 p.m. EDT Thursday time slot. It's the linchpin of NBC's schedule on a key TV night of advertising revenue.

"Not to diminish the departure of Steve, because that will impact the show, but we have tremendous faith in the writers and actors to keep it alive," Bromstad said.

Carell, 46, who's become a busy big-screen actor during his Office tenure, has said in interviews he plans to leave the series to better balance his work and family life. He's married with two children.

Carell voices the lead character in the new animated comedy Despicable Me and stars with Paul Rudd in Dinner for Schmucks, out this week. His other film credits include Date Night and The 40-Year-Old Virgin.

The door is open if he wants to make return visits to the show, Bromstad said.

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Award-winning

Garnering attention over the years.

A regular Emmy nominee for best comedy series and winner of the award in 2006, The Office is holding steady in the ratings. It drew 700,000 more viewers last season than it did two years ago.

Actor Steve Carell leaves his post as expires in 2011.

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MTV tops GLAAD with 'excellent' rating

Report examines hours of TV time that include gay, bisexual, transgender people CW and Fox also rank high while CBS gets "Failing" grade.

MTV held a solid lead among 15 networks for its representation of gay characters last season, according to a report released Friday.

In its fourth annual Network Responsibility Index, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation found that of MTV's 207.5 hours of original prime-time programming, 42 per cent included content reflecting the lives of gay, bisexual and transgender people. This earned MTV the first-ever "Excellent" rating from GLAAD.

"MTV programs like The Real World and America's Best Dance Crew have offered richly diverse portrayals of gay and transgender people that help Americans better understand and accept our community," said GLAAD president Jarrett Barrios.

Among broadcast networks, the CW was on top with 35 per cent, while Fox ranked a close second with 30 per cent. ABC, with 26 per cent, got a "Good" rating, while NBC was "Adequate" with 13 per cent. CBS' 7 per cent earned that network a "Failing" grade from the report.

"MTV programs like The Real World and America's Best Dance Crew have offered richly diverse portrayals of gay and transgender people that help Americans better understand and accept our community "

JARRETT BARRIOS, GLAAD PRESIDENT

GLAAD noted, with approval, the parenting role played by gay couple Mitchell and Cameron on ABC's Modern Family, and the story line on Fox's Glee where high school student Kurt comes out as gay to his father.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The sitcom Modern Family features a gay couple Mitchell (centre) and

erratic boss Michael Scott in The Office once his contract

Wilson countersues in fraud dispute

Actor Rainn Wilson of The Office has countersued a Portland company in a website development dispute.

He's seeking at least US$400,000 in damages from Think Brilliant, accusing the company in a recent federal court filing of fraud and breach of trust.

Think Brilliant sued Wilson earlier this month, seeking $11.3 million and alleging the actor failed to properly compensate the company for website development work. Think Brilliant also contends Wilson hacked into its database and accessed confidential materials.

The actor and the company had an apparently amiable relationship over two years as Think Brilliant helped develop Wilson's whimsical website, SoulPancake.

But a split developed over compensation and later over how the two sides would dissolve their relationship. Each side denies the other's allegations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TV Picks

Two-hour dance special

REALITY Finalists flip, spin and twirl their bodies into jaw-dropping moves in a two-hour live performance episode of So You Think You Can Dance. Last week, judges stunned audiences when they decided not to eliminate any contestant, so two will get the boot this week. (CTV, Fox)

Sir Paul visits the White House

AWARD Sir Paul meets Barack Obama in Paul McCartney: In Performance at the White House. At this recent event, the U.S. president and wife Michelle Obama host an event to present the former Beatle with the Gershwin Prize for Popular Song at a gala also attended by Stevie Wonder, Elvis Costello, Herbie Hancock and Jack White. (PBS)

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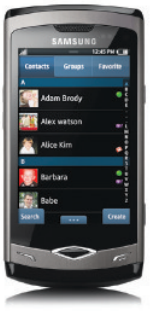

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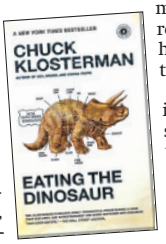
d Cameron (right) who have an adopted child.

Eating his words

Klosterman on his writing process and toying with his interviewers

Chuck Klosterman tends to wax meta. Throughout his career of analyzing music, sports and pop culture, the hyper-self-aware essayist can't help but insert his very specific experience into topics such as how much David Koresh had in common with Kurt Cobain and the logistics of time travel.

For instance, in the opening chapter of his latest compilation of essays, Eating the Dinosaur, now out in paperback, Klosterman dissects the process of conducting interviews —something he's been on both sides of — admitting he openly lies during some interviews, and drawing the conclusion that they're relatively pointless.



Eating the Dinosaur by Chuck Klosterman

It makes for a perfectly awkward moment when it comes time for Klosterman to be interviewed to promote this book. He already knows he may have shot himself in the foot this time.

"Well, I have to say it has effectively stopped people from trying to interview me," he jokes. "In general, I get written about less now than I did a few years ago. But maybe the essay has something to do with it, I don't know."

But back to David Koresh and Kurt Cobain: Klosterman's approach to his essays, which tend to draw parallels between seemingly incongruous elements and people in pop culture, are like a game of "which one of these things doesn't belong?" in reverse.

"I don't really know what I think about something until I write about it," he explains. "I think, 'Why do I like these two things? Because it feels like I like them in the same way.' Writing is the process of deducing that."

In the long run, however, Klosterman is dubious about his own writing's importance — that is if he's actually being honest with Metro. "The main thing, if they have any value over time — and they probably don't — it would be kind of like present tense history, so that if somebody goes back later and reads these books, while the ideas might not necessarily seem insightful or important, they'll be able to see what people were interested in at the time."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Writer Chuck Klosterman.

JASON KEMPIN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jersey Shore star Michael "The Situation" Sorrentino rings the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange yesterday.

'Dirty' Jersey finally gets new identity

TV shows sending out image of state as loud, brash and in-your-face ◐ Governor claims identity is false

On TV these days, it may seem like it's all Jersey, all the time.

Housewives flipping tables and yanking out hair weaves. A good-natured but hot-tempered cake baker, muttering his more choice expressions in Italian. Stylists teasing up big hair. And of course, the horny, hard-drinking, foul-mouthed crew at the Jersey shore beach house.

Be careful what you wish for: Long derided as an insignificant suburb of New York and Philadelphia, New Jersey has yearned for a national identity. Well, it has one now, at least on the television screens of America. And, Maddone! What an identity it is!

"It's like Dirty Jersey — kind of trashy," said Casey Maher, 18, of Islip, N.Y. "I like it!"

Maher and three friends, all from Long Island, were in Seaside Heights, standing one recent evening across the street from the now-famous, brown-shingled beach house where the cast of Jersey Shore was to begin filming the show's third season.

"The Jersey shore is a beautiful place, and it's a place that everybody should come on vacation this summer."
NEW JERSEY GOV. CHRIS CHRISTIE

"It's not some place you have to be all proper," said 17-year-old D'Anna Cervone.

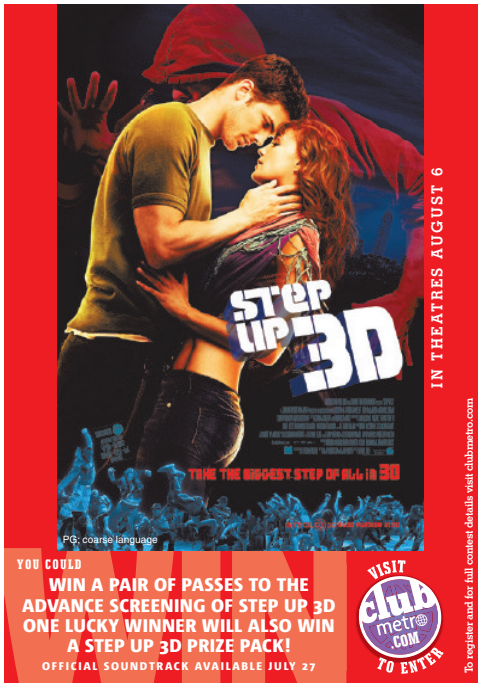
"It's casual living," added 18-year-old Brittany Banks. "It's cool here."

There are four reality TV shows set in the Garden State, and they're among the most popular of the genre: The Real Housewives of New Jersey on Bravo; MTV's Jersey Shore, the chronicle of 20-somethings having a blast at the beach; TLC's Cake Boss, about the goings on at Carlo's Bakery in Hoboken; and Style Network's Jerseylicious, about battling hair stylists in Green Brook.

But the image of New Jersey that's going out to the rest of America is loud, brash, in-your-face, big hair, small vocabulary, Italian surnames a must.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a fanatic for the state's most famous rocker, Bruce Springsteen, says that image is a false one.

He said the MTV show "takes a bunch of New Yorkers, drops them at the Jersey shore, and tries to make America feel like this is New Jersey."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESSS



News in brief

Fans donate Zappa statue

MUSIC The unveiling of a statue honouring Frank Zappa in his hometown of Baltimore will feature a week of events including a concert by his son, Dweezil.

The statue was donated by fans in Lithuania, a country Zappa never visited but one where his music was popular among the avant garde. The statue is a replica of one erected by a fan club.

Baltimore's public arts commission considered multiple locations, including the bohemian Fells Point waterfront, before deciding on the Southeast Anchor Library in working-class Highlandtown, a neighbourhood well known for its Greek restaurants.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not guilty plea in stabbing

DEATH A man accused of stabbing to death the son of a movie producer at a Beverly Hills home has pleaded not guilty to murder.

Scott Barker entered the plea on Monday in Superior Court. He could face the death penalty if convicted.

Prosecutors say Barker stabbed 21-year-old Katsutoshi "Tony"' Takazato last week at the victim's home in the wealthy Trousdale Estates area.

Takazato's father, Fuminori Hayashida, lives in Japan and produced several movies in the 1990. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Angie sings praises for Papa Brad

In addition to being impossibly handsome, wealthy and famous, Pitt is also a 'wonderful father'

Actress Angelina Jolie, in Tokyo for the weekend opening of action thriller Salt, brushed off rumours about her shaky relations with Brad Pitt.

"He was just a wonderful father," she said yesterday of Pitt, during work on the film, in which she plays a tough spy. He often brought the children to the set, she recalled.

"They played with fake blood, and they found mommy very strange in her different hair," she said.

Pitt and Jolie have been partners since they began a relationship while working on the 2005 film Mr. & Mrs. Smith. They are raising six children.

Last week, Pitt and Jolie accepted undisclosed damages to settle a privacy claim against a British tabloid that had reported in January that the golden couple was planning to split.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

Celebrity tweets

John Mayer [@johncmayer] Lots of beautiful ladies in NYC this afternoon.

Ian Somerhalder [@iansomerhalder] Back in Atl, great city worst water in America... Why? Does everyone enjoy brushing teeth in pool water? More chlorine than any other major city I've seen. Uhh, can we find out why and change this? Children drink this stuff? Not good

Sarah Silver-man [@Sarah-KSilver-man] Why isn't there a bone protecting our throats? There's so much important stuff in there.

Talking points

No plans to let Lohan out early

GET YOURSELF COMFY. Lindsay Lohan's hopes of getting out of prison after barely a week will be dashed, if the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has anything to say about it, according to Hollyscoop. Lohan's lawyer had been working on getting her client released before the end of the month, but according to Sheriff's Department spokesman Steve Whitmore, "She won't be released this week."

Madonna reinvents child labour

MATERIAL GIRL. Madonna says she's very happy with her latest clothing line at Macy's — and with the fact that her daughter, Lourdes, is doing most of the work. "Since I have a few careers going, I decided that I wasn't going to get into designing this line by myself. No question, Lola seemed the perfect choice," Madonna tells USA Today.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Putting that child army to work

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3 life

Top pick

Travel find this week:

1 **Hotels:** Delta Hotels & Resorts just cut rates by up to 50 per cent at hotels in more than 25 locations across Canada. Room rates start at $87 per night for stays through Sept. 6. The offer expires Aug. 4. Call 1-888-573-4829 and use promotion code TZC to book.

A Croatian cracker

ONLY HAVE ONE DAY? THE ONE-TIME ISLAND OF ROVINJ COMBINES 360 DEGREE SEA-VIEWS WITH ENDLESSLY FASCINATING LITTLE SIDESTREETS, HISTORY, AND SOME OF THE BEST FOOD IN THE COUNTRY.

Where I'd wake up

Hotel Monte Mullini

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Rovinj's first five star hotel is breath-taking. Beautifully designed into the hillside, fabulously light and airy, big rooms, and views of the bay everywhere you look. Impeccable service, great restaurant and extensive wine list with some Croatian gems. Superb.

D. TALAJIC

Monte

monte.hr

Footsteps away from the Cathedral awaits this funky and informal but very high calibre restaurant. Expect the freshest foods from Rovinj's market and the freshest fish form Rovinj's sea or just leave yourself in the hands of gaffers Tjitske and Danijel Djekic.

Where I'd have dinner

Enoteca Al Gastaldo

Iza Kasarne 14. 052/814-109.

This family-run corner restaurant, on Iza Kasarne, specialises in high-quality shellfish, sole and lobster dishes which aren't cheap but are superb. Failing that try any of the equally decent seafront places which make up for their minor cordon bleu failings with perfect sunsets.

Spend the morning

Cathedral of St Euphemia

Garibaldijeva 1

The imposing early 18th century tower is the centrepiece of this low-rise town, and a great reference point. Religious relics fans will love the remains of St. Euphemia, a virgin fed to the lions before her bones miraculously floated to Rovinj.

FLICKR CC ZHAFFSKY

Spend the afternoon

Hit the beach

There are a number of beaches around Rovinj. All are pretty, most are rocky. It's annoying at first but take a pair of flip-flops and the sea is so perfectly warm and the surroundings so stunning that you soon get used to it. If you're a purist, Cuvi beach, to the west, actually has a modicum of sand.

How I'd spend the night

The Monvi Centre

Something like a clubbing theme park this, with all the groovi-est bars and dancefloors all in one place. Music runs from serious dance, to punk and rock, to Croatian pop and folk. The centrepiece is the Amfiteatar and pool bar, which hosts major gigs.

Planning your next vacation? Maybe you should start by looking at the stars

Brunch in the big apple

The only time of the day where its considered ok to mix waffles with chicken and egg with your vodka

ROMINA McGUINNESS
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

"Nothing makes you forget late nights and hangovers quite like a New York brunch."

▶ Pies N Thighs

THE PICK ME UP BRUNCH
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Regardless of anything else, the fact they thought of a hangover drinks list makes Balthazar a winner. Try a Champagne Pick me up (champagne, orange juice, grenadine) with your runny eggs "cocotte" and soldiers. Patisserie section with home made donuts, croissants and brioche.
balthazarny.com

THE COMFORT BRUNCH
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Forget calorie counts and tuck-in to the crispy fried chicken and waffles or the smoked pork hash and eggs. For the sweet toothed the donuts (sprinkled in cinnamon and sugar, natch) and peanut butter pie are heavenly.
piesnthighs.com

THE, ER, LATE NIGHT BRUNCH
Bubby's pie company

Bubby is grandma in Yiddish. Regulars may or may not know this, but they do know about the Midnight brunch (until 7 a.m.) meaning they can have apple pie or a stack of sautéed walnut and banana pancakes way past 'civilized' hours.

The spicy Bloody Mary will perk you up, morning or night.
bubbys.com

THE CLASSIC BRUNCH
EGG

Southern style easy come, easy go atmosphere. Folk music accompanies your "Rothko" eggs.

The thick slice of brioche is punctuated in the centre making space for a sunny side up egg sprinkled in Grafton cheddar.

Brunch is served until 3 p.m., by which time you could be tempted by the Carolina Kale or fried oyster sandwich featured on the lunch menu.
pigandegg.com

THE LIQUID BRUNCH
Schillers liquor bar

Bleary-eyed brunchers appear super cool and in no way grubby in their faded creased clothing.

The antique subway tiles and faux mirrors bring the bohemian vibe up a notch. Once seated, order a dark chocolate Russian cocktail with alcoholic egg cream followed by a sour cream and hazelnut waffle. **schillersny.com**

▶ Bubby's

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Offer ends Sunday, August 1, 2010, while quantities last NE074G410 © 2010. Sears Canada Inc.

Beer adds a taste of summer

LARRY CROWE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 portions
Prep and Cooking time: 45 min.

▶ Honey Dijon Beer-Marinated Chicken Sandwich With Slaw.

The acidity and sweetness of the beer simply works wonders with the flavour and texture of the chicken

Ingredients :
- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 bottle (341 ml) pale ale beer
- 1 1/2 cups broccoli slaw
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp sweet relish
- 1/4 cup Dijon mustard
- 2 tbsp honey
- 1/3 cup slivered almonds
- 1 cup panko (Japanese-style) breadcrumbs
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 3/4 tsp salt
- 3/4 tsp ground black pepper
- 1 egg
- 2 tbsp butter
- 4 sesame seed hamburger buns

The search for a tender, juicy and flavourful breaded chicken sandwich ended up in the place where so much great thinking begins , the beer aisle.

After playing with various ways and ingredients for imparting flavour and moisture to this most ubiquitous of bird meats, it was discovered that a beer bath had the biggest payoff in terms of big flavour.

Preparation:

1. One at a time, slice each chicken breast horizontally through the centre to form 2 thin halves.
2. In a medium bowl, combine beer and chicken. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.
3. In a small bowl, combine slaw, mayonnaise and relish. Mix well, then refrigerate until needed.
4. In a small bowl or cup, whisk together mustard and honey. Set aside.
5. Meanwhile, in a food processor, pulse almonds until coarsely ground. Transfer to a wide, shallow bowl. Add panko, garlic powder, salt and pepper, mixing to combine.
6. When chicken is ready remove it from beer and pat dry with paper towels. Whisk egg in a wide, shallow bowl. One at a time, dredge each chicken cutlet through egg, then through breadcrumb blend.
7. In a large skillet over medium-high, melt butter. Working in batches and adding more butter as necessary, add chicken and cook for 4 to 5 minutes per side, or until cooked through.
8. To assemble sandwiches, layer a quarter of the slaw mixture over the bottom half of each bun. Top with a chicken cutlet. Spread a generous amount of mustard over the top half of the bun, then place over chicken.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Superfood: Chili Peppers

It's hot stuff — not only when you eat it, but for your health too.

Chili peppers contain the powerful phytochemical capsaicin and the hotter the pepper, the more capaiscin it will contain. Capsaicin helps fight inflammation as it helps prohibit Substance P, a neuropeptide linked to inflammation. Chilis also help prevent sinutitis and relieve congestion.

Varieties of chilli peppers such as Cayenne have been shown to reduce blood cholesterol. Its bright redish colouring indicates high levels of beta-carotene or Pro Vitamin A, which plays an essential role in boosting the immune system.

ROMINA MCGUINNESS

Can yogurt save the day?

Probiotics are the new buzz world in the culinary world We find out the basics of the food phenomenon that is sweeping the globe

Stroll down your local dairy aisle and observe: Many products boast probiotics, good-for-you bacteria that can help our bodies' digestion and boost our immunity. But what does it all mean?

"Probiotics in general are a bit of a Wild West situation," says gastroenterologist and assistant professor of medicine at Yale University, Dr. Anish Sheth. "It's a buzz word, something a lot of people are touting, but there is a lack of quality control."

He explains that there are two forms available to consumers:

One is probiotic supplements such as Phillips Colon Health, for which Dr. Sheth is a spokesperson.

The other is through food products, such as yogurts, cereals, chocolates and drinks.

"In food, it's less clear how many billion colonies (of bacteria) you get if you ingest, say, a smoothie," Dr. Sheth says.

METRO WORLD NEWS

▶ Foods with probiotics are great for maintaining general health.

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The question: To text or not to text

As the next generation starts to flood the employee pool, quite an impersonal approach and attitude to work is burgeoning

ISTOCK

It may be hard to unglue your eyes from your smart phone screen, but there are certain situations when it really is necessary.

MAT LECOMPTE
WORK@METRONEWS.CA

Blackberries and iPhones. More like Crackberries and i-can't-stop-playing-with-my-Phones. Addictive, efficient and, at times, an over-used substitute for good old fashion talking.

According to a recent survey by textPlus, a texting app, 11 per cent of respondents felt it was appropriate to ask for a raise via texting, while 32 per cent think it's okay to let their bosses know they're taking a sick day by typing it on their mobile.

According to Dr. James Norrie, associate dean and professor at the Ted Rogers School of Management at Ryerson University in Toronto, there's a time and a place for such technology.

"(With) any high stakes communication, you should try to be using a high engagement communication method," he says, such as the telephone or a face-to-face meeting. He says once certain factors are eliminated from the message, like tone or facial expression, there becomes a disconnect between the content and the context.

A 31-year old director's assistant in New York — who wishes to remain anonymous — knows all too well about that disconnect. Because of her line of work, texting is an essential part of the job, but can sometimes create confusion. For example, the meaning in the limited number of words used can get lost in the airwaves. She recalls one episode when she received a vague message from her boss asking her to send a car.

"I had no idea where he was, where he wanted to go, etc.," she says. "I tried to call him but he didn't answer so I texted him a bunch of questions and when I received one word answers, it was hard to tell if he was annoyed with me or just annoyed he was stuck in the rain somewhere!"

Texting no-no's

- Here are some other common mistakes people make using text messaging.
- They respond to quickly. According to Norrie, texting is a rushed style of communication and the way it's approached varies depending on the setting. For example, the quality of a response will differ when sent from a desk than while walking to the subway.
- They ignore the relationship quotient, meaning there is more to a conversation than just the content.

Book review

I (heart) Money
Author: David Campbell Lester
Publisher: DCL Capital Press
Price: $24.99

Money is a curious thing. The very essence of its purpose is to drive commerce, meaning, it's there to help you buy that thing you love. It is no wonder that we have an ingrained ability to spend rather than save. Financial coach and author David Campbell Lester suggests in his book I (heart) Money that we need to take a different approach to managing our money, loving it, rather than just splurging with our pay cheques or credit cards.

According to Lester, how you approach money, should start with how you respect it, or even carry it. "Do you keep it all bundled up in your pants or wallet? Do you go commando (not carry an at all)?" Lester folds his up neatly, same side up in a fancy money clip. Talk about respect.

Lester's book provides some key insight to managing your money, also pointing out that having a healthy relationship with money will trickle down into having healthy personal relationships. Look back at any first date. The first two questions out of someone's mouth are "where do you live?" (Translation: What kind of real estate can you afford?) and "what do you do?" (Translation: How much money do you make?) says Lester.

"If you find someone who truly loves their money and is in control of it, you can be confident that they are in control of their life."

The key principles of Lester's book aim to simplify your financial life. This includes putting savings and investing on auto pilot. By utilizing technology tools like online banking and investing, we can very easily deduct a portion of our pay to buy investment units, or set aside in a high interest savings account automatically.

This is a great fast read that can give you some straightforward steps to achieving your financial dreams.

CRAIG LUND

News in brief

$32M for college research fund

EDUCATION Science and Technology Minister Gary Goodyear announced recently that the federal government is investing $32.5 million with the Canada Foundation for Innovation to support a new college fund, which will ensure that colleges have the latest research equipment and facilities to take innovation research from the laboratory to the marketplace.

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If you would like to participate in this study then please contact Katie Morton (project coordinator) by e-mail: katiemorton84@gmail.com or by phone: 778-316-2619.

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DORMCO.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The Doberman Security Laptop Defender motion sensor alarm by Dormco.com is shown here. It attaches to a laptop computer and could be a good investment for the coming school year.

University safety shopping tips

The annual university shopping trip is almost upon us Remember there is more to school than toys, security must be considered too

While it's fun to stock up on posters, shower caddies and desk lamps, experts say you also should consider how you'll keep yourself, and your stuff, safe on campus.

Common sense is the best defence, says Chris McGoey, who runs a security business in Los Angeles and consults on campus safety.

"It's all about access. In most incidents, victims were careless, unaware and too trusting," he says.

In dorm suites and hallways, there may be visitors you don't know. Many first-year students like to adopt an "open-door" policy when they get moved into dorms. But that's an invitation to would-be thieves.

"If you have a computer, laptop or other electronic equipment, tether it to something solid using a security cable," advise the "college life" editors at the school-advice site SparkNotes.com.

There are also motion-sensor locks for laptops. And Orbicule's Undercover is a monitoring device for your Mac, iPhone or iPad; for a student price of $39 US, the downloadable software will snap a photo of the person who took your Mac and track the IP address anywhere in the world — information that can be given to police. In the meantime, lockout features prevent the thief from accessing anything on the computer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Identity Theft

- Don't give out bank, credit card or social security information over the phone or online. Shred sensitive documents, or use an identity blocker stamp that obscures personal info. Be careful about replying to solicitations, and check bank balances frequently. If your wallet or purse is stolen, let your bank, the school and the police know immediately.

Seats still available

Courses are filling fast,
but there's still time to apply and register for classes starting in September at Kwantlen Polytechnic University.
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Getting your foot in the door and on the runway

ISTOCK

▶ Helping aspiring fashion designers get their start is the goal of John MacKay.

Toronto PR firm launches mentorship program for designers

HEATHER BUCHAN
WORK@METRONEWS.CA

Canadian public relations guru, John Mackay, founder of PR firm Mackay & Co., and his associate Joshua Norton, are fashion industry veterans who count Tiffany and Co. and Hermès among their clients.

As a way to give back to the community they love, the pair has launched an innovative mentorship program aimed at equipping up-and-coming designers with the communications skills necessary to make it in the fashion biz.

"Initially, we thought we'd do their PR for them free of charge," explains Mackay. "But then we thought, if they're going to build a business in Canada, they may never have the money to promote themselves effectively using agencies. They may have to do it themselves." And thus, the Mackay & Co. mentorship program was born.

Their first "student" is Chinese-born, Toronto-based womenswear designer Paris Li.

"English is not my first language and sometimes I have found it difficult to express what I am trying to do in a business situation," says Li, adding that since beginning her mentorship with Mackay and Norton, her confidence has increased and she's more comfortable with buyers and the media.

"They have helped me develop my marketing communications skills, and also reinforced some things I knew but was not confident about," she explains.

JOHN MACKAY'S TIPS

Top 5 tips for aspiring fashion designers:

▶John Mackay

1. Learn to be formal: You grew up in an informal world with texting, Facebook and other abbreviated communications. But business is business. Learn to write a great letter, an e-mail people will want to read, leave a great voicemail, etc. There are rules. Learn them.

2. Pick up a book on etiquette: Etiquette? That's the art of treating people well — and politely. Doesn't matter how you live, what your style or how old you are, a little grace goes a long way.

3. Accuracy matters: When we get an e-mailed job letter or resumé with typos, we toss it. Take time to proof your communications.

4. Learn about me: "Me" being the company you're trying to get an interview or a job with. Think about the company you're applying to. Show them you really understand who they are and what they do.

5. Be relentless: Don't stop trying. Ever. If you want it with all your heart, you'll get it — or pretty darn close.

HEATHER BUCHAN

EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS

Employers often take a kitchen sink approach to drafting employment contracts. I've written about certain things to look out for in prior columns, but here's other issues that employees should consider.

Legal advice:
In one recent Alberta case the court refused to uphold a contract because there was an implication that had the employee not signed it, she would have lost her job. Employees should be given time to seek legal advice and an opportunity to negotiate terms.

Prior tenure
Upon a merger or acquisition, prior tenure is not simply erased — it continues, unless a contract states otherwise. In one of my cases, the employer argues that it is not responsible for the severance owed to a long-term employee because much of his tenure was with a predecessor. However, because the contract was silent, it is wrong.

Severance provisions
If a contract clearly permits termination upon payment of only statutory requirements, there is no right to severance, no matter how long or meritorious the employee's tenure. There is only a right to get what the contract says.

Reference to policy manual
For a policy manual to form a "term" of employment, it is not enough to refer to the existence of the company's manual in the contract. The manual must be attached to the contract, and the contract must confirm that the employee has read the manual and accepts those terms. For example, in another one of my cases, the employer states that a clause in its policy manual formed an important term of my client's job. If this were true, they why did they not put that into their contract?

Workplace Law

DANIEL LUBLIN
EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN LLP
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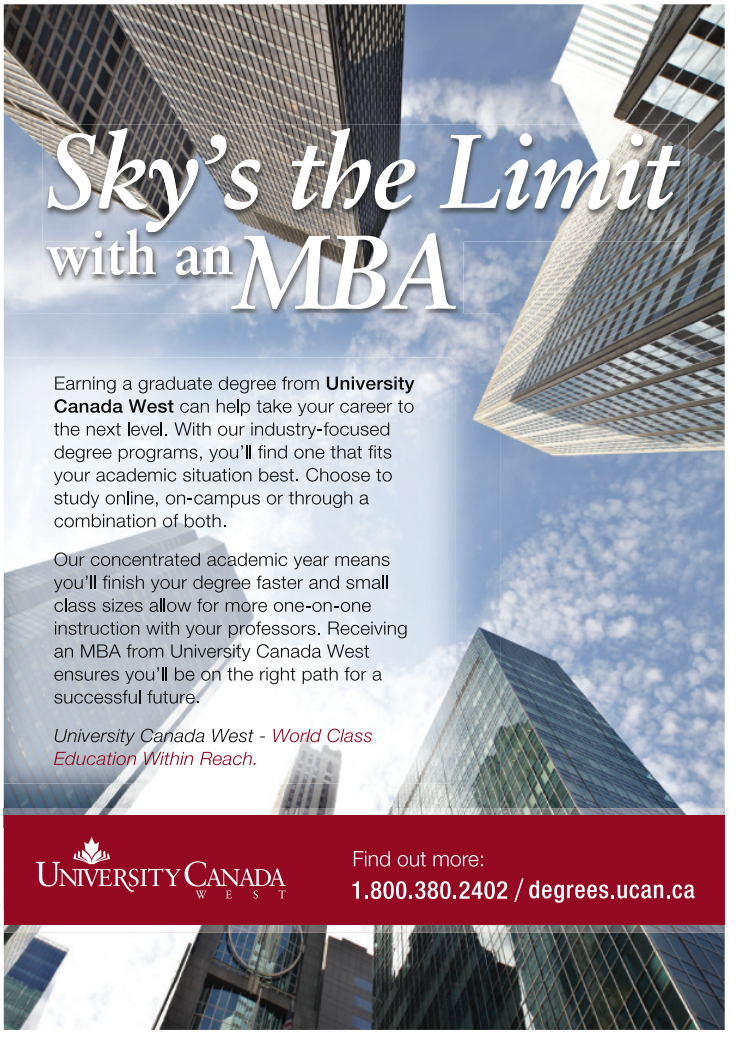


4 sports

Sports in brief

1 New York Rangers sign free agent Alexander Frolov.

2 Cincinnati Bengals reportedly reach deal with Terrell Owens.

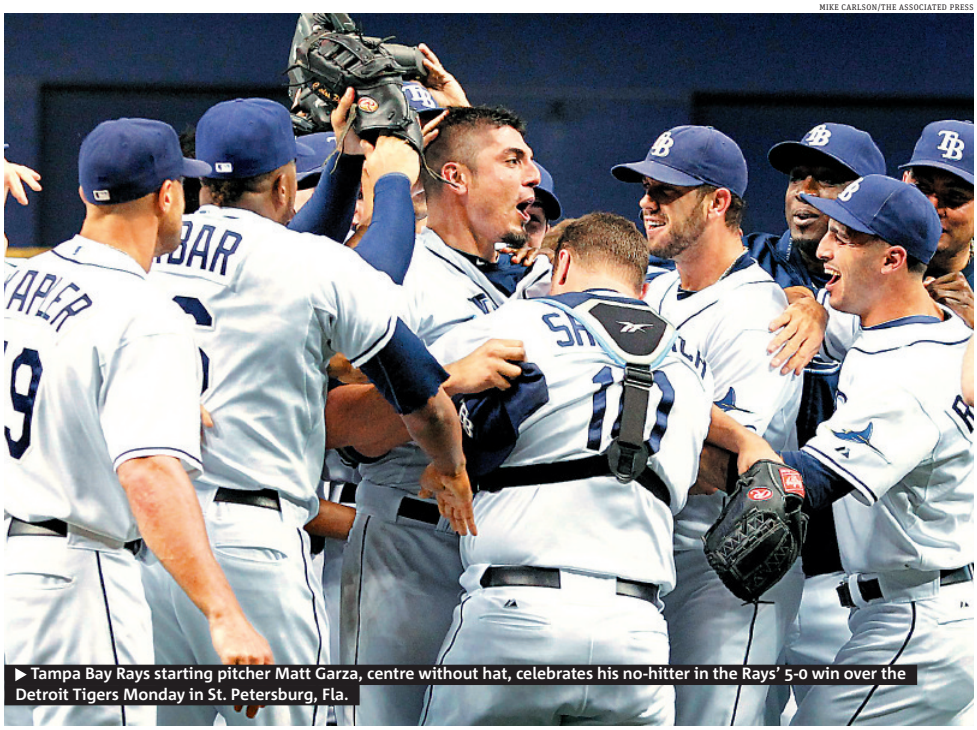
3 Mets' left-fielder Jason Bay has mild concussion and is out of the lineup for at least a few days.

Scan code for news

The Year of the Pitcher indeed

- Garza's no-no the latest in this historic season
- Not since 1991 has majors seen this many no-hitters in a year

MIKE CARLSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher Matt Garza, centre without hat, celebrates his no-hitter in the Rays' 5-0 win over the Detroit Tigers Monday in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Five no-hitters, two perfect games and another gem that was spoiled by an umpire.

By now, San Francisco Giants broadcaster Mike Krukow and others around baseball are beginning to expect a piece of pitching history every week.

"I do. I can't explain it," said Krukow, who pitched in the majors from 1976-89. "Amazing. I think it's pretty cool. The Year of the Pitcher."

Matt Garza tossed Tampa Bay's first no-hitter Monday night in a 5-0 victory over the Detroit Tigers, becoming the fifth big leaguer to turn the trick during a season of mastery on the mound.

The last time there were five no-hitters in one year was 1991, when Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan threw one of seven in the majors. Now, arms are in charge again — so much so that no-hit alerts seem commonplace.

Ho hum, another shutout. Complete game? Yawn.

"Pitching has gotten better," Rays manager Joe Maddon said. "I don't know that the hitting has gone back a bit, but the pitching has definitely gotten better."

The numbers back him up. Fourteen times a pitcher has carried a no-hitter into the eighth inning this year. That's the most through July 26 since at least 1974, as far back as such records go at STATS LLC. As a comparison, it happened six times by that date last season.

"I don't know if there are any explanations for it," Minnesota manager Ron Gardenhire said. "It runs in cycles and you just go through it."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elite group

- Oakland left-hander **Dallas Braden** retired all 27 batters against Tampa Bay May 9 and Philadelphia ace **Roy Halladay** duplicated the feat 20 days later at Florida, making this the only season besides 1880 to include a pair of perfect games.
- Arizona's **Edwin Jackson** and Colorado's **Ubaldo Jimenez** also threw no-hitters, while Detroit right-hander **Armando Galarraga** was denied a perfect game because of a missed call at first base by an umpire.

Whitecaps gear up for coin toss

1st

The club that wins the coin toss must decide if they want the first pick in the MLS expansion draft; the MLS SuperDraft; or signing players from the USSF D-2.

It's a coin toss that likely won't decide the Vancouver Whitecaps destiny, but it's a flip the future Major League Soccer team still wants to win.

A coin toss involving the Whitecaps and Portland Timbers will occur during halftime of today's MLS all-star game at Reliant Stadium in Houston. The winner will have until Aug. 11 to decide which one of several drafts and signing periods they want to have the first pick in.

"I don't know if it's going to make or break you, but it sure would be nice to have the ability to decide what we wanted first," Bob Lenarduzzi, the Whitecaps' president, said yesterday.

"I don't think it's going to get you to the promised land all on it's own. But it's better to be picking first than second." The Timbers and Whitecaps will both join MLS next season.

Representing Vancouver in the coin toss will be Greg Anderson, the Whitecaps' director of professional teams. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Yao Ming may 'call it quits' from basketball

Houston Rockets centre Yao Ming is pondering quitting basketball if he doesn't fully recover from his lingering foot injury next season.

In wide-ranging comments to Chinese state media yesterday, Yao sounded far from optimistic about his future and also made a rare criticism of China's national basketball program.

"If the foot injury does not heal next season, I might choose to call it quits," Yao said.

Yao missed last season following foot surgery, but is set to return to the Rockets after deciding not to opt out of the final year of his contract. Though he has said his recovery was going well, the Rockets have signed seven-foot veteran Brad Miller to share the work at centre.

The seven-foot-six Yao, who was in his native China for a series of charity events, all but ruled out playing for his country in the 2012 London Olympics.

Yao said the Chinese national team's recent poor showings stem from the country's focus on preparations for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, while neglecting development teams and the country's professional league. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Yao Ming

Maradona done with Argentina

Diego Maradona is no longer the coach of Argentina.

The Argentine Football Association said yesterday that it would not renew Maradona's contract, ending his erratic 21-month stint in charge of the national team that had mirrored his own long personal history of unpredictable behaviour and defiance.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO CANADA

▶ Following a new model in 2009, Mitsubishi skipped a year and has now released the 2011 Eclipse Spyder.

Mitsu Eclipse Spyder spins web of wonder

Looking for a drop-dead-gorgeous topless road companion? 2011 Japanese convertible got the looks for a price that won't break your bank

JIL MCINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

I've never figured out why some cultures perform rain dances in dry weather; all they need to do is give me a convertible to drive. My week with the 2011 Mitsubishi Eclipse Spyder included rain every single day, but I braved the sprinkles for the joy of driving with the roof down.

The Spyder has faults, but on a summer's day, it's easy to forgive them once the top stows away. It isn't quite the driver's car that Mitsubishi claims it to be, but it's a good wind-in-your-hair machine.

There's no 2010 model: Its production dates would have released it in the dead of winter, and so Mitsubishi Canada went straight from 2009 to 2011. There are two versions: the GS, at $30,498, uses a 2.4-litre four-cylinder engine, while my tester, the $35,998 GT-P, contains a 3.8-litre V6. Mine used a six-speed manual transmission, while a six-speed automatic can be added for $1,200.

The 265-horsepower V6 is a work of art. It's strong and smooth, with a deliciously throaty exhaust note; the clutch is light, the shifter is precise, and it's simply a joy.

What isn't pleasant is the torque steer, the tendency for a front-wheel-drive car to pull to one side on acceleration. With this much power, the car will all but turn a corner if you're not holding on tight.

An all-wheel system would make a huge difference, and Mitsubishi makes an incredible one that it plugs into its Lancer Evolution, but it would undoubtedly push the car's price out of reach.

The outside is gorgeous, and the inside is too. The heated sport seats are heavily bolstered, and when combined with my tester's orange exterior shade, the interior is three-tone.

Consider this a winding-road sportscar and you may be disappointed; look at it as a drop-dead-gorgeous topless traveller, and you're closer to the mark. Given the prices of some rivals, it's hard to do much better.

The specs

2011 MITSU ECLIPSE SPYDER GT-P

- **VEHICLE TYPE** Sports convertible
- **PRICE** $35,998
- **ENGINE** 3.8-litre V6
- **FUEL ECONOMY** City 13.1 L/100 km, hwy 8.0 L/100 km, as-tested 11.4 L/100 km
- **WARRANTY** coverage is always important to buyers, and Mitsubishi offers an especially long one: five years or 100,000 km on almost everything, and an additional ten years or 160,000 km on the powertrain.

Hundreds of Evoque testers descend upon cities

The all-new Range Rover Evoque has entered its final phase of testing, with hundreds of prototype models dispatched around the globe for trial in the toughest climates and conditions.

Land Rover is making no secret of the operation. Its design team has fitted ten prototypes with funky camouflage wraps, to introduce the new car in 10 key cities worldwide.

Ordinarily prototypes are disguised for discretion, but these ten are intended to be seen.

The funky camouflage imagery is actually a GPS mapping trail of ten key cities for Evoque, with each vehicle saying "Hello" to its city. It signals the eagerly awaited global launch of the new Evoque.

▶ A camouflaged Range Rover Evoque.

These vehicles represent London, New York, Sao Paulo, Paris, Milan, Madrid, Berlin, Sydney, Shanghai and Moscow and will all be spotted testing around the globe.

They are just a small proportion of the hundreds of pre-production cars that will be rigorously evaluated over millions of miles to ensure the new Range Rover Evoque surpasses the highest standards of quality and reliability when it goes on sale in summer 2011.

FROM CARGUIDE

5 drive

Up and down

Ready to soar
The Terrafugia Transition — a flying car — has finally been given official clearance to fly by U.S. aviation authorities.

PT Cruiser bows out
Chrysler is shutting down shop in terms of its quirky retro design car, the PT Cruiser. 1.3 million of car have sold since it was launched in 2000.

Scan code for more car news and reviews

Sorento family favourite

If adventures are your thing, Kia SUV can be an ideal companion Relatively worry-free model high on value

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Like it or not, some Canadian families simply need the ruggedness, capability and power served up by a 4x4 SUV. If your family requires one such model to tow a boat, tackle the cottage trail or access weekend adventures via uncharted territory, there are several worthy options to consider in the used market.

The new Sorento is now on sale at Kia dealerships, leaving the former value-priced model in the used market with a praised ladder-frame structure and real 4x4 transfer case with low-range gearing. These two attributes form the basis for real-world sport ute toughness that gear the Sorento towards a shopper actually planning to work their machine a little with some towing or off-roading.

Sorento was powered by one of several V6 engines. Earlier models got a 3.5 litre unit with 192 horsepower, while a 3.8 litre, 262 horsepower V6 was also available. Later in the Sorento's life, a 3.3 litre, 242-horsepower engine joined the lineup, and shoppers can look for a four or five-speed automatic, as well as the rarer five-speed manual transmission.

Highlights

- **MODEL** 2003-09 Kia Sorento
- **VEHICLE TYPE** SUV
- **APPROXIMATE USED PRICE RANGE** $5,500-$24,000

PHOTO COURTESY KIA MOTORS

Kia Sorento has plenty to offer for those in search of a budget SUV.

What Owners Like

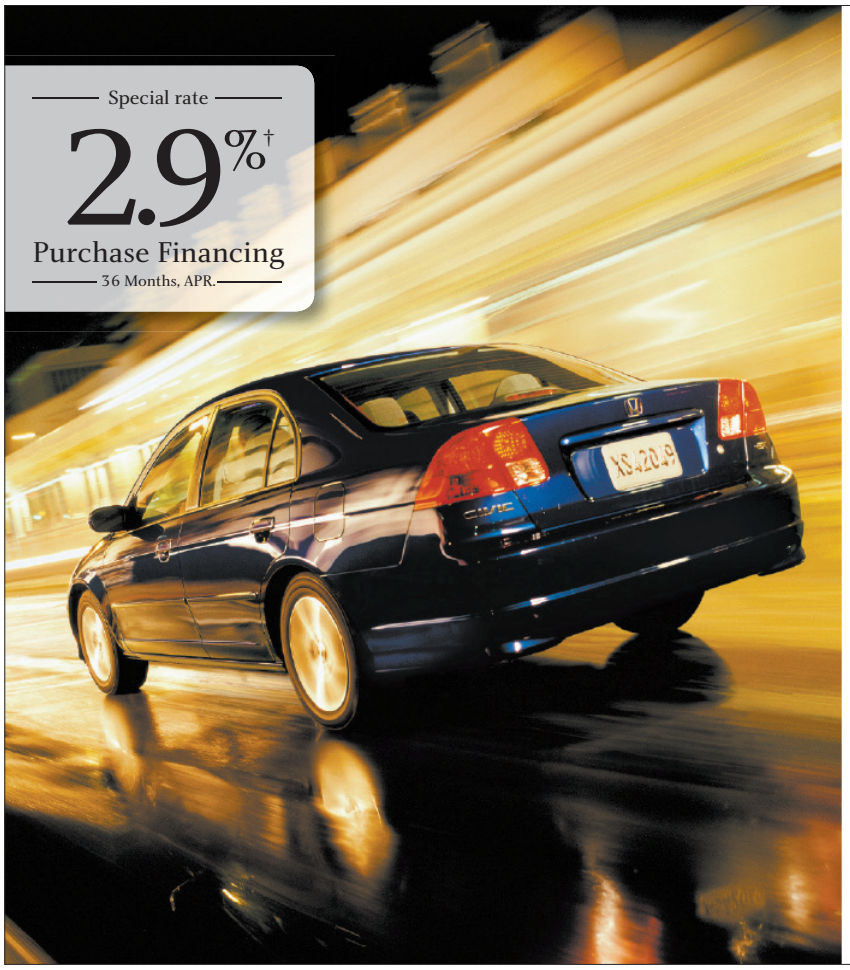
Value, equipment levels and styling are rated highly by last-generation Sorento owners, as are a safe and confident driving feel that comes as part of a tall height and solid ride. Fit and finish were also praised.

What Owners Hate

Standard 4x4 complaints regarding fuel mileage top the list of last-generation Sorento owner gripes, along with a "thin" paint job and some interior noises and rattles.

Common issues

Shoppers test-driving a used Sorento are advised to check that the 4x4 system shifts in and out of its various modes as expected, thus ensuring an expensive actuator within the transfer case isn't malfunctioning. Models with a manual transmission should shift smoothly with no grinding, clunking or clutch slippage.



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- 100+ point inspection

HONDA Certified Used Vehicles

†Limited time financing offer on all Honda Certifed Used Civics available through Honda Financial Services, on approved credit. Offer only available up to 36 months on Honda Certified Used Honda Civics (2005–2009 model years). Finance example based on 2005 model: $10,000 at 2.9% per annum equals $290.37 per month for 36 months. Cost of borrowing is $453.42 for a total obligation of $10,453.42. Taxes, license, insurance, registration and fees are not included. See your Honda dealer for full details. Dealer may sell for less. Offer expires July 31, 2010.

CANADA'S **hottest** **model** **event**

2010 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT shown.§

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2010 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN

CANADA'S BEST SELLING MINIVAN FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS
CANADA VALUE PACKAGE

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INCLUDES $6,500 CONSUMER CASH* AND FREIGHT.

PLUS GET **0%†** PURCHASE FINANCING for 36 months

OR CHOOSE

$130 BI-WEEKLY @ A VARIABLE PRIME RATE OF **2.75%±** FOR 84 MONTHS

2010 Dodge Journey SXT shown.§

2010 DODGE JOURNEY SE

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INCLUDES $1,250 CONSUMER CASH* AND FREIGHT.

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2010 Jeep Patriot Limited shown.§

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PURCHASE FOR
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INCLUDES $3,000 CONSUMER CASH* AND FREIGHT.

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DODGE Caravan Kids

SIRIUS SATELLITE RADIO

Wise customers read the fine print: • ˆ † ± § Canada's Hottest Model Event offers apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased between July 21, 2010 and August 3, 2010 from participating dealers. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. See participating dealer for complete details and conditions. •$21,480 Purchase Price applies to 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (24F+C19) only and includes $6,500 Consumer Cash Discount. $19,980 Purchase Price applies to 2010 Dodge Journey SE (22F+C1E) only and includes $3,000 Consumer Cash Discount. $14,980 Purchase Price applies to 2010 Jeep Patriot Sport (25D) only and includes $1,250 Consumer Cash Discount. Pricing includes freight ($1,400) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealers may sell for less. See participating dealer for complete details. *Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on most new 2009/2010 vehicles and are manufacturer-to-dealer incentives, which are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Amounts vary by vehicle. See your dealer for complete details. †0% purchase financing for 36 months available to qualified customers on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank, TD Financing Services and GMAC on most 2010 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram models, except Challenger, Caliber Canada Value Package and SE Plus, Grand Caravan Cargo Van, Sprinter and Ram Chassis Cab. Examples: 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (24F+C19)/2010 Dodge Journey SE (22F+C1E)/2010 Jeep Patriot (25D) with a Purchase Price of $21,480/$19,980/$14,980 financed at 0% for 36 months equals monthly payments of $596.66/$555.00/$416.11; cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $21,480/$19,980/$14,980. Pricing includes freight ($1,400) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealers may sell for less. ±Variable Prime Rate financing up to 84 months is offered on approved credit on most new 2010 vehicles to qualified retail customers through TD Financing Services and Royal Bank of Canada. Bi-weekly payments shown are based on 84 month terms. Variable rate shown is based on TD and RBC Prime Rate and fluctuates accordingly. Payments and financing term may increase or decrease with rate fluctuations. RBC offer is not open to residents of Quebec. TD offer is not open to residents of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories. Some conditions apply. See participating dealer for complete details. §2010 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discount $27,695. 2010 Dodge Journey SXT shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discount $25,945. 2010 Jeep Patriot Limited shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discount $25,195. Pricing includes freight ($1,400) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealers may sell for less. ^Based on January through December 2009 R.L. Polk sales total registrations. SIRIUS and the dog are registered trademarks of SIRIUS Satellite Radio Inc. Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

All about the battery

WARRANTY. The Chevrolet Volt electric vehicle with extended range will provide customers with an unprecedented, standard, eight-year/100,000-mile warranty on its advanced, lithium-ion battery. GM claims it is the industry's longest, most comprehensive battery warranty for an electric vehicle, and is transferable at no cost to other vehicle owners. The Volt's comprehensive battery warranty covers all 161 battery components.

FROM CARGUIDE

President takes charge of Volt

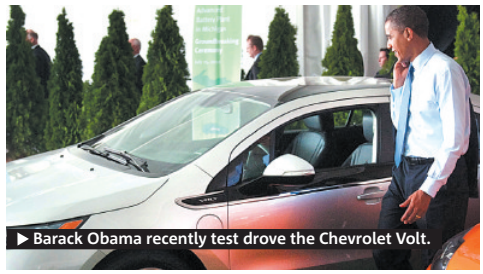
U.S. President Barack Obama got his first exposure and seat time earlier this month in the Chevrolet Volt electric vehicle with extended range capability during a visit to the Compact Power battery plant in Holland, Mich.

LG Chem, the parent of Compact Power, is making the battery cells for the Volt, which goes on sale late this year.

The Volt has a range of about 340 miles and is powered with electricity at all times.

For up to the first 40 miles, the Volt is powered solely by electricity stored in its 16-kWh lithium-ion battery, using no fuel and producing no emissions.

FROM CARGUIDE



▶ Barack Obama recently test drove the Chevrolet Volt.

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EXPLORER NEW CHAPTER IN SUV STORY

The Sport Utility Vehicle, or SUV, is an interesting phenomenon. Before the 1980s, they were uncommon and an acquired taste, like certain foreign cheeses, or the movies of Rainer Werner Fassbinder. During the 1990s they took over the landscape.

In the last decade, they became somewhat vilified and watched helplessly as their devotees changed stripes, and embraced car-based crossovers.

This decade we're seeing the actual vehicles changing stripes. Once proud truck-based SUVs nameplates are now switching over to car-based platforms. Earlier this year we saw Kia Sorrento make the move.

And just this week Ford introduced its new generation Explorer, the first Explorer to go "unibody" and to offer front-wheel-drive versions, in addition to its AWD versions.

The Explorer move is significant, because the nameplate is credited as the major force behind the initial SUV tsunami.

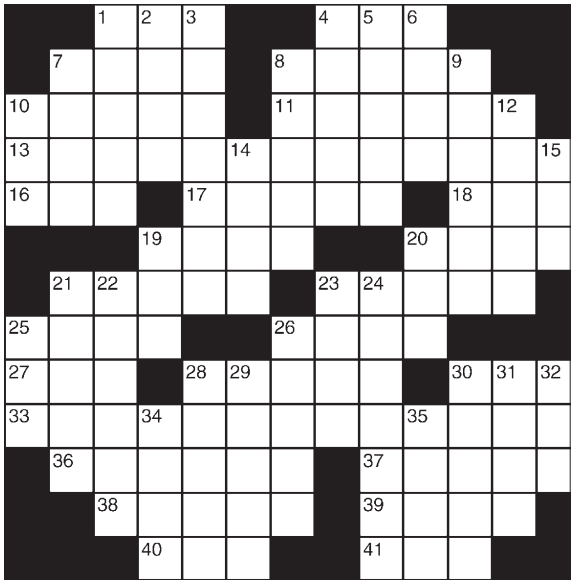
In its first year of production (1990), Explorer sold 14 million units. It helped turn a niche vehicle into the most dominant one of the era. I think the clearest explanation of why the phenomenon developed back then came from John Rock, once a vice-president of GM. He observed that traditional car buyers at the time "just loved truck-based powertrains."

At Ford Canada's reveal of the 2011 Explorer, I caught up with Paul F. Roy, the company's marketing director. He noted that current customers are not hung up on which vehicle is body-on-frame or unibody; they're more interested in what the vehicle can do, than the nature of its construction.

He added that Explorer is a name that continues to resonate, and there is a swath of buyers who prefer the more, rugged SUV vibe. They just want that vibe in a more fuel-efficient and sophisticated package.

So now we have another niche — a car-based crossover that's trying to channel some old-school truck-based SUV mojo. At first I thought, "naw, doesn't feel right." Now I'm thinking, "why the hell not?"

Crossword



Across
1 Corn eater's castoff
4 Drunkard
7 Smart phone?
8 Lomond and Ness
10 Sound from a rapid-flying object
11 Comprehension
13 Small, unpretentious place
16 Hooter
17 Search
18 Meadow
19 Unopened flowers
20 Nervous
21 Host
23 Hardly neat
25 Raised
26 On deck
27 Grecian vessel
28 Drink noisily
30 Rotation duration
33 Aced, on the links
36 Tire type
37 "Monopoly" payments
38 Some boxers' jabs
39 Forever and ever
40 To the — degree
41 "CSI" evidence

Down
1 Malaria symptom
2 Leak slowly
3 Pinochle-like game
4 Former frosh
5 Eightsome
6 Dissolve
7 Presentation
8 Guitars' ancestors
9 Poets of old Scandinavia
10 16-Across' query?
12 Poem of lament
14 Undraped
15 Minstrel's song
19 The A train?
20 Superlative suffix
21 Boo-boo
22 Telepathic
23 Unembellished
24 Lapsed
25 Insect
26 Zeroes
28 9-to-5, e.g.
29 Reluctant
30 The D in DKNY
31 Farm animals?
32 "Absolutely"
34 Mideast gulf
35 Night light?

▶ Yesterday's answer

S	C	A	R	■	R	A	N	■	Z	E	S	T
L	O	B	E	■	O	H	O	■	O	N	E	A
A	L	U	M	■	W	O	R	L	D	C	U	P
G	E	T	A	W	A	Y	■	A	I	S	L	E
■	■	■	K	E	N	■	S	P	A	■	■	■
P	A	W	E	D	■	C	U	P	C	A	K	E
A	G	O	■	■	J	O	N	■	■	F	I	G
C	A	K	E	P	A	N	■	O	U	T	D	O
■	■	■	L	E	G	■	K	I	N	■	■	■
S	M	E	A	R	■	H	A	L	L	W	A	Y
P	A	N	P	I	P	E	S	■	E	A	S	E
A	X	I	S	■	M	A	H	■	S	K	I	N
R	I	D	E	■	S	P	A	■	S	E	A	S

Sudoku

			4				7	6
	4		7				5	
		8			9	1		
6				1	5			
	3	5				8	1	
			2	8				3
		4	9			7		
	5				6		8	
3	9				2			

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

7	4	5	3	6	1	9	8	2
1	2	9	4	8	7	6	3	5
3	6	8	5	2	9	4	1	7
2	9	3	8	5	4	7	6	1
8	5	7	1	3	6	2	9	4
4	1	6	7	9	2	3	5	8
6	3	4	2	1	8	5	7	9
9	7	1	6	4	5	8	2	3
5	8	2	9	7	3	1	4	6

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I'm so proud of you baby, I love you so much, can't wait for blue mountain
LOVE HAKIM!

I just wanted to thank you for all your time and patience with me. And thank you for the 4 wonderful years hopefully we get to continue to be with each other for the years to come.
ME

Cynthia, I had given up hope before you came into my life; you are the most wonderful woman I have ever known, and I will go with you to the end of the line.
MARTIN

Jaan, I sit here and try to think of all the words to describe how I feel and what you mean to me, but all I can think of is as simple as this. I love you. I always have and I always will no matter what comes.
TENDU

The Weather Network
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Today Sunny 22° / 16°
Thursday Sunny 22° / 16°
Friday Mainly sunny 23° / 16°

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 19 This is potentially one of the best times of the year for you, so don't waste it. What happens today will cheer you up no end but you should not be feeling down anyway.

♉ Taurus April 20-May 21 You have been so busy of late that you may have neglected some of the people you love, so make it your aim today to remind partners and family members how much you care.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Forget about money worries and work problems and make it your aim to have fun. If what you are doing does not bring a smile to your face then either you are doing it wrong or you should not be doing it at all.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You have to get serious about your cash flow situation. You can still have fun but it must be the kind of fun that does not cost you an arm and a leg.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Forget about what happened earlier in the year and strive to make the next few weeks truly special. You cannot change the past but you can redeem it by making the future memorable — and the future starts right now.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 The Sun's transit of the most sensitive area of your chart makes this a difficult time for you, but not so difficult that you have to walk around with such a long face. Cheer up, it's life, and it's still pretty good.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You can, if you wish, sit back and do nothing today but if you spend time with your friends you will not only feel relaxed but you will feel as if you have done something productive as well.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You will be put to the test over the next few days, so prepare yourself mentally and get plenty of rest as well. Your mind and your body need to be at their peak.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Expand your horizons and break out of the rut you have been living in these past few months. You have done what was expected of you and now you have every right to reward yourself.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You may not want others to know that you are in difficulties but if you don't speak up how are you going to get help?

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Partnership matters of all kinds must be taken seriously now. You may wish that you could just ignore certain issues but common sense tells you that's no way to go about things.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Changes to your schedule, both at home and at work, will have to be made eventually, so why not make them now? You have been pushing yourself a bit too hard. Go easier on yourself today and tomorrow.
SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

MARK KEPPLER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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RONA

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†Offer valid until September 12, 2010 at participating Shell locations. Minimum $20.00 fuel purchase required. Minimum $10.00 in-store purchase required per transaction to earn 10x offer. Minimum $5.00 in-store purchase required per transaction to earn 5x offer. One Bonus Offer per transaction. Tobacco products, Car Wash and Service bay repairs are not eligible. Up to a maximum of 290 AIR MILES reward miles issued per transaction. The Shell logo is a trade-mark of Shell Brands International AG. Used under license. ††From July 30, 2010 to August 1, 2010. See in-store for details. †††Excluding taxes and the purchase of Gift Card. Offer valid from July 31 to August 1 at all RONA participating stores in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba only. Bonus offer coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Certain conditions apply. See in-store for details. **Account must be in good standing. 2x reward miles offer available at participating Safeway, Shell and RONA stores located in Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Yukon and Northwest Territories (and Thunder Bay, Ontario for participating Safeway locations only) when you use an American Express AIR MILES Credit Card for purchases of $30 or more between July 31, 2010 and August 1, 2010 only. Other terms and conditions apply. Visit www.airmiles.ca/superbonus1 for details. ***All Rewards offered are subject to the Terms and Conditions of the AIR MILES® Reward Program. Some restrictions and additional charges apply. Subject to availability. Visit airmiles.ca or call the AIR MILES Customer Care Centre at 1-888-AIR-MILES. Flight quote is applicable for travel during low season only. ®/™Trademarks of AIR MILES International Trading B.V. Used under license by LoyaltyOne, Inc. Sponsor trademarks are owned by the respective Sponsors or authorized for their use in Canada.